

First Published to  
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Washington, Jan 28

Profile of the  
Queen, page 6

No 61.146

## Suicidal Aslef, by Rodgers

The attitude of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen in the dispute causing the rail strike is suicidal, Mr. William Rodgers, one of the joint leaders of the Social Democrats, said. "No sane government will invest in electrification and renewal if a handful of men and a bloody-minded union break agreements and exploit their bargaining power." Page 2

## Police hurt in Bristol clashes

Two policemen were injured, one seriously, in two nights of clashes in Bristol between groups of white and black youths. Thirteen black and eight white youths were arrested and extra police were in the streets. Page 2

## Rape decision not Fairbairn's

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, who resigned as Solicitor General for Scotland over the Glasgow rape case, said yesterday that the decision not to prosecute was not taken by him and he had no knowledge of it at the time. Back page

## Owen leadership move attacked

Several SDP MPs voiced fears that the party might get involved in the damaging contest for the leadership. They were critical of Dr David Owen, who recently said he wanted a contest, and some spoke of a "susp Ray Jenkins" move. Page 2

## Schmidt plays down illness

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, played down reports that he had been taken ill at a local SDP party conference on Saturday. He insisted that a formula for financing an unemployment scheme must be found by Wednesday. Back page

## Ritchie-Calder dies at 75

Lord Ritchie-Calder, the scientist and journalist, died yesterday in Edinburgh, aged 75. Starting as a junior reporter on a local newspaper, he became an international scientific authority and was made a life peer in 1966. A Times obituary will appear tomorrow.

## Industry call to cut fuel bill

The steel industry is spearheading renewed demands that the Government should act to cut energy-intensive industries' fuel bills. The steel industry last year paid out £520m for gas, electricity and fuel oil. Page 11

## CIA tried to hire Bani-Sadr

Agents of the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) tried and failed to recruit Mr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr as an informant before he became president of Iran, according to an account in The Washington Post. Page 4

## UK wins record Far East deal

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, has announced a credit agreement for the largest package of British goods and services yet exported to Indonesia. The deal, worth £125m, will help in the expansion of an oil refinery. Page 6

## Masterful Davis earns revenge

Steve Davis won the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament at Wembley, when he beat Terry Griffiths 9-5. Davis gained revenge for his defeat by Griffiths in the Lada tournament earlier in the month. Sydney Friskin, page 15.

## Sinai force

The Israeli Cabinet has agreed to the participation of Britain, France, Holland and Italy in the international force which is to police Sinai after it is returned to Egypt on April 26. Page 4

Letters: On disconnecting fuel supplies, from Mr Alex Henney; Roosevelt and power, from Mr P. F. Breakell; long-distance parishes, from Mr Alan Mattingly. Leading articles: European air fares; President Reagan's visit to Europe. Features, pages 6 and 8: Thirty years a Queen; a profile by Alan Hamilton; what Soviet death could mean for Soviet Communism; Obituary, page 10: Mr Stanley Holloway.

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# 205 arrested in clashes near Gdansk shipyard

By Our Foreign Staff

Fourteen people were injured and 205 arrested when police clashed with youths who tried to storm public buildings in Gdansk, the Polish news agency PAP reported yesterday. It was the first report of street disturbances this year in Poland, and the worst in Gdansk since the Lenin law was declared on December 13. The trouble reportedly started on Saturday evening when a group of youths began shouting and distributing anti-state leaflets near the Baltic port's Lenin shipyard. PAP said many people were returning home from work and initially showed little interest in the demonstration. Police arrived and quickly restored order but the organisers later tried again to stir up trouble in the centre of the city and refused to disperse when ordered by the police, PAP reported. The demonstrators attempted to attack public buildings and have aggressively towards the police, who finally chased them from the scene. Eight policemen were among the injured.

By 8 pm the city was calm, the agency said. It described the incidents—which occurred two days before today's introduction of drastic price increases for basic foods and for fuel and electricity—as a serious violation of martial law. PAP said the majority of those arrested were students and secondary school pupils, and their offences were being considered by summary courts. The agency said that, because of the disturbances, martial law authorities had tightened restrictions in the city, cut off telephone services, banned the use of private cars and extended the curfew by three hours. It now ran from 8 pm to 5 am.

According to the Interior Ministry, the measures were aimed at showing that Polish authorities "are determined to make order and calm reign". The ministry also accused the "irresponsible elements" who provoked the incidents, of taking advantage of measures taken by the authorities to ease the restrictions of the state of siege. Communications from Warsaw have been severed since the military crackdown and Western correspondents are not allowed to travel outside Warsaw. There was no immediate word on why PAP did not report the riot until last night.

The Polish authorities were planning to relax some of the stricter martial law restrictions, partly to ease everyday life for the population but also to ensure the smooth running of the economy (Roger Boyes writes in an earlier dispatch from Warsaw). Further relaxation of travel and curfew hours had been expected to be announced over the next 10 days. A report on the economic necessity of some of these measures, the Government appears to be motivated

by two other considerations. The first is to show a degree of responsiveness to public pressure as articulated by the Roman Catholic Church, and to improve its image in the West.

It is now evident that many of the Gdansk shipyards—not just the Lenin yard—have been closed for a fortnight, workers having been told to take two weeks holiday. This partly reflects a dearth of orders but also the real fear that the birthplace of Solidarity would become a rallying point for fresh protests. Go slow protests are, according to unofficial sources, planned in Wroclaw factories and at the Ursus tractor factory in Warsaw.

All Polish newspapers at the weekend bitterly condemned Sunday's United States television show Let Poland Be Poland as a grave interference in its domestic affairs. Second, the Government is seeking some policy leverage ahead of the food price rises. In announcing a degree of relaxation in his speech last Monday, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the Military Council, made clear that such concessions would be withdrawn if there was significant unrest over the increases. Inter-city telephone communications is to be restored within 10 days—though all conversations will be subject to censorship—and domestic television and business telegrams will also be restricted.

The Polish Government has had to balance the prospect of the Solidarity underground making use of the new telephone links to reorganize. Against the tangible damage being done to manufacturing industry. In the last few months, scarcity of raw materials had become a fixed problem of Polish industry and managers were often forced to telephone or telex contacts throughout the country to obtain, for example, scrap iron or chemicals. Since martial law, this has been impossible and many factories have been paralysed as a result.

Further restrictions to be eased include the blanket ban on unregistered meetings of 10 or more people; weddings and large family gatherings are now permitted without prior notification to the police. All conferences and political meetings (except of course for party meetings) will remain illegal under martial law. Foreign correspondents have been told that they will soon be allowed to travel wherever they want in Poland, providing they have the necessary permits. It is not clear whether Foreign Ministry officials will have to accompany correspondents on these trips. Outside the capital, the effects of food price rises—traditionally a volatile measure in Polish—continued on back page, col 3



World champion, 19, skiing in the rain

The new first lady of skiing, 19-year-old Erika Hess of Switzerland, showing extraordinary balance in winning the special slalom on a rain-soaked piste at Schladming, Austria. "Described by her coach as a 'nature girl' with strong nerves, Fraulien Hess, took the gold medal yesterday in the first combined downhill and slalom event to be staged. Erika has been described as a living advertisement for her native country—not to speak of her equipment and sponsors. She comes from a farm near Interlaken in the Alps. The supreme slalom specialist of the past two seasons, at one point winning 10 out of 11 races, she gave another demonstration of her flawless technique yesterday, clocking the fastest time on the first leg, but taking care on the second, which was run on a chemically-treated course. (Page 16).

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## Avalanche kills 12 teenagers

Salzburg, Jan 31—Twelve young West Germans were killed in an avalanche which buried a party of 18 on a ski slope near here today. One other was still missing.

Police said that six youths were rescued unhurt from the avalanche. The party had been led by an experienced West German skiing instructor, Hermann Tom, who disappeared in an avalanche warning they added. The group had been following a skiing course on the 1,400 metre (4,600 feet) Elmau mountain, near the village of Werfening. It was made up of students and teachers from a private school in the Bavarian town of Berchtesgaden, near the Austrian border. They came from various parts of West Germany and were on a skiing holiday. The rescue operation involved more than 140 police, firemen and other rescue workers, equipped with powerful search lights. Police said that dozens of volunteers also joined in, bringing lamps and torches to help light up the scene of the accident.

The rescue was carried out in constant danger of further avalanches, after a day of unseasonably warm weather throughout eastern Austria. Police reported that the avalanche broke loose shortly after 3 pm (14.00 GMT). The alarm was raised by a member of the school group, who managed to free himself from the snow, and alerted the proprietor of a mountain-top inn. The search carried on long after dark, with searchlights combing the pitch-dark slopes. The operation was finally called off after seven hours, because of the threat of a new avalanche.

The Elmau is located in the pine-forested Tennen mountain range, in Salzburg province. The site is one of many steep ridges, and is popular with holidaymakers for its picturesque ski trails.

One person remained missing in the late evening

## National strike threat against labour Bill

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Senior leaders of the trade union movement yesterday warned the country of outright opposition, including the use of political strikes, to the Government's proposed labour legislation.

Involving memories of the unions' opposition to the Heath Government's Industrial Relations Act, the officials, who included general secretaries of the country's three biggest unions, said that they were even prepared to embark on a national strike to defeat the Employment Bill. They expressed anger particularly at clauses in the Bill which allow for compensation of up to £20,000 for workers who refuse to join a union where there is a closed shop. They said that the Bill would lead to the creation of "bounty hunters". Mr Duffy said he believed that the Government would try to establish case law in an area involving one union and would hope that the rest of the movement would rest that union in isolation or not support it. "I feel, again, badly, that that act by the Government will mean that the whole of the trade union movement could be involved in a national strike," he said.

Asked by Brian Walden, the programme's presenter, whether ordinary trade unionists would be prepared to strike against clauses in the Bill when it was enacted, Mr Duffy replied: "When we request our people to show loyalty to the trade union movement, that loyalty will be forthcoming." That view had been rejected earlier in the programme by Mr Tiddit who said he thought the legislation would "stick". The mood of workers on the shop floor, he added, was much more realistic than that of their union leaders. Recent experiences had shown that "trade union leaders who try to go out on a political crusade are not followed by their members".

The TUC is organizing a special conference of union executives in April to mount opposition to the legislative proposals.

## Bill would curb wives' rights

By Our Political Reporter

The Government is preparing legislation to change the laws on divorce which will reduce the rights of former wives to maintenance payments. Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, is anxious to act in the present parliamentary session on the recommendations of the Law Commission for England and Wales, made only last December, and hopes to include the proposals in the Administration of Justice Bill for which time has already been allotted in the government's programme and which will soon be introduced in the Lords.

It is argued that not to be possible to include the changes in that Bill, they might have to wait until the next session of Parliament. The Government has accepted the Law Commission's recommendation that the provision in section 25 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, which asks courts to try to make a settlement of the financial consequences of divorce, should give greater emphasis to the principle that the divorced parties should aim to become self-sufficient and not continue to rely on main-



Lord Hailsham: wants to act soon.

tenance from the other spouse. It said that the courts should give greater weight to a divorced wife's earning capacity and consider more often setting a time limit on maintenance orders where they feel that a wife needs time to adjust to her new situation, but she should not expect to rely on her former husband indefinitely. Under the new legislation, courts will be able to order a financial "clean break", a once-for-all settlement, in appropriate cases, although the commission recognized that that would be almost impossible where there were young children.

It was pointed out in government circles yesterday that such cases would not be common. The sort of situation envisaged by the commission was a childless marriage which had lasted a comparatively short time and the wife had earning capacity. The legislation will result in the courts having to give greater overriding priority to the provision of adequate financial support for children.

## Effluent curse of the Sphinx

From Christopher Walker  
Cairo, Jan 31

A combination of sewage, air pollution, salt, sun, sand and wind is seriously threatening the Sphinx, the majestic monument which has guarded the pyramids at Giza, on the outskirts of Cairo for nearly 5,000 years.

Yesterday, Dr Ahmed Kadri, the chairman of Egypt's official antiquities department, told a parliamentary committee that recent restoration work had failed to halt the deterioration of the 239ft long sun god, which has the body of a lion and the face of a human.

At a time when Egypt's economy is facing severe problems, Dr Kadri said that £340,000 was urgently needed for repairs. He suggested the setting up of a fund and pointed out that recent restoration work had been very limited "and in medical terms had only had the effect of a tranquillizer".

The gravity of the problems facing the inscrutable limestone monument have long been a cause for concern among archaeologists. They were brought home dramatically to the Egyptian public last November when the Sphinx's left leg, comprising 120 blocks of stone put there by restorers in Graeco-Roman times, fell off.

Earlier, Al-Ahram had conducted a vigorous campaign designed to alert the authorities to the danger that without rapid action, the monument erected on the orders of King Khufu, could be lost forever. Among suggestions made for preserving it was the suggestion of a protective glass bubble to act as a windbreak.

Over the centuries the monument has had to be dug out of the encroaching desert sand on three occasions. But its latest troubles are more serious and largely result from the rising water table caused by the lack of any sewage system in the neighbouring hamlet of Nazlet el-Seaman.

As a result, the maze of underground passages in the area around the statue have become clogged by effluent. An American research team reported in 1978 that water was seeping into the porous limestone of the body and then evaporating to leave tiny crystals of salt which were making the stone brittle and fragile.

Controversy has surrounded recent attempts to cure the Sphinx's environmental problems, with some Egyptologists claiming that the attempted cures were often worse than the ailments. In 1980 an attempt to replace blocks was halted after the discovery that one source of the rock weakening had been the use of bad mortar in previous restorations.

In addition, the monument is under constant attack from sandstorms, the vicious extremes of temperature experienced in the desert, and more recently, air pollution from Cairo's traffic.

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## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Licensing of sex shops attacked

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the campaigner against pornography, has written to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, to protest against local authorities getting powers to license sex shops under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, which comes up for its remaining stages in the House of Commons on Wednesday (A Staff Reporter writes).

She said yesterday: "This move is a political sharp practice on the part of those who are in the Home Office who have consistently resisted all attempts to tighten up the obscenity laws."

"The introduction of licensing will inevitably have the opposite effect to what the anxious public expects from it and will make the role of the police quite impossible. I call upon Mr Whitelaw to introduce effective obscenity legislation before this backdoor legalization of pornography takes hold."

## £250,000 stolen from police safe

More than £250,000 in cheques and cash has been stolen from a safe in the offices of the Transport Police at Victoria Station, London.

No force was used to open the safe. Police believe the door was unlocked and the money removed. The disappearance of the cash and cheques, which was to have been evidence in a court case, occurred more than two weeks ago but was disclosed only yesterday.

## Poll support for work sharing

Most people with jobs would agree to cut their hours to create work for the unemployed, according to a Gallup Poll published in *The Sunday Telegraph* yesterday. The poll, of 1,792 adults in more than 70 districts, also showed that 70 per cent of the respondents felt the Government should give priority to measures against unemployment rather than inflation.

The poll, also commissioned for the BBC programme *Two Nations*, 77 per cent of those in work said people with jobs should be prepared to share work.

## Briton shares chess title

John Nunn, the British international grandmaster, has scored a great success in coming equal first with Balashov, the Soviet grandmaster, in the Grandmaster tournament which ended yesterday at Wijk aan Zee, in Harlem (Our Chess Correspondent writes).

Nunn shared with three wins in the final round (Timm and Timmerman, and van der Wiel and van der Wiel) and lost to Balashov in the last round. Nunn's score was 10½ out of 16, Balashov's 10½.

## Boy accused of rape

A schoolboy, aged 15, is to appear before Camberwell juvenile court, in south London, today accused of raping and robbing a girl aged 18 in Lewisham on January 22, and also raping a girl aged 20, seven days later.

## Driver on rape charge

A motorist is to appear before magistrates at Mildenhall, Suffolk, today accused of raping the wife of an American serviceman as she walked home from a party, eight days ago.

## Beating black ice

A device to warn motorists of black ice on roads is being developed at Nottingham University.

## Correction

Tracy Spurr received a nine-month suspended sentence at Newport Crown Court, Gwent, on Friday, not a three-month suspended sentence as stated in the Press Association report published on Saturday.

## BR may suspend guaranteed pay in Aslef dispute

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

British Rail, which yesterday took the first steps to stem the rising losses caused by the train drivers' strikes by refusing to pay all but essential maintenance workers, is considering further action to avoid paying wages when no trains are running.

As the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) held its third consecutive Sunday strike, BR told 50,000 workers, who would normally earn £25 an overtime rate for Sunday working, to stay at home. Only 15,000 maintenance men were instructed to report for duty.

The BR board meets tomorrow and may be forced into planning a suspension of the guaranteed weekly wage for its 170,000 workers so that it can avoid paying wages to other staff when Aslef members are holding their two-day mid-week strike.

A final decision on suspension of the guaranteed wage, which could also cause legal difficulties for BR, is said to be some way off. In the meantime, senior railway managers are planning to bring the sides closer together, has proposed a committee of inquiry, which has the backing of BR and the other rail unions but so far has not been approved by Aslef. The dispute is over BR's decision to withhold a 3 per cent pay increase from 20,000 train drivers because Aslef has not agreed to proposals for changes in rostering.

The Aslef executive is due to start meeting this afternoon but may not get around to discussing the inquiry until tomorrow, probably to await the result of the BR board's deliberations. The executive will also have to decide on future strategy but is unlikely to approve extended action or a variation of the tactic of

strikes on Sundays followed by stoppages on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

BR is thought to be prepared to let the dispute "ride" for a while in the hope of Aslef succeeding in getting the committee of inquiry established. It is possible, although unlikely, that the inquiry could still go ahead even if Aslef declines to give evidence.

The railways have so far lost about £40m as a direct result of the strikes and losses continue to mount as the rate of about 16m each weekday when there are no trains.

The losses raise the possibility of another increase in fares to follow the 9.5 per cent rise last November. Sir Peter Parker, chairman of BR, said that he hoped to pay fares for 12 months. That may now be in jeopardy and an increase of about 9 per cent in the summer cannot be ruled out.

Mr William Rodgers, one of the leaders of the Social Democratic Party and Secretary of State for Transport in the former Labour government, entered the war of words surrounding the dispute last night when he described Aslef as "bloody-minded". He said: "I have previously avoided any comment on the rail dispute that might make a difficult situation worse. But now it is clear that the present attitude of Aslef is suicidal."

Railway guards, all National Union of Railwaymen members based at Brighton and Gillingham, Kent, last night threatened an unofficial strike today, which would cripple commuter services into London (the Press Association reports).

Their threat was in protest at being laid off yesterday because of the Aslef strike.

BR's Southern Region said last night that services from Brighton to London Bridge, and from the Kent coastal towns, would be severely disrupted if the strike took place.

They were directing most of their anger at Dr David Owen for letting it be known that he wants a contest for the leadership and saying that he is determined to stand if Mrs Shirley Williams decides after the SDP's constitutional conference next month not to challenge Mr Roy Jenkins for the post.

As some MPs spoke darkly last night of a "stop Roy Jenkins" being under way in the party, Mr Ian Wigglesworth, MP for Tees-side, Thorsby, said: "I hope that personal ambition will not be put before the interests of the party."

Mr Jenkins is generally considered to be the favourite to take over the leadership, whichever formula the party decides to adopt for the election, although he will be eligible only if he has been elected to the Commons. Mr Jenkins is at present preparing to fight the Glasgow, Hillhead, by-election.

Next month's conference will discuss the two election methods that have been put forward: election solely by Social Democrat MPs or election by party members on a one-member-one-vote principle. The issue will be finally resolved in a ballot of the membership soon after the conference.

The dispute started in the wake of a suggestion last week by Mr William Rogers that the party should accept Mr Jenkins as leader and Mrs Williams as president, the number two post in the party, without a contest.

Mr Rogers became known that day as the proposer of a power struggle breaking out among the leaders, a suggestion that Dr Owen was reported as denying yesterday.

Mr Rogers maintained yesterday his view that the party would be better served without a contest this year, but that if there was one it would not be damaging. He said: "I still think our members and our millions of supporters would be happier if we could solve this without an election, but there will be no other way."

Mr Wigglesworth said: "I very much regret that this suggestion is being placed before the leadership. I hope the leadership will resolve the question of who will run among itself."

Dr Owen's view is that the party should have elections, that it would be surprising if it did not, and that as a democratic party the SDP is quite capable of running an election without causing damage or divisiveness.

Liberal and Social Democrat in the South-west have failed again to resolve all their differences over the allocation of parliamentary constituencies in Devon and Cornwall and have asked the parties' constitution machinery to find a solution at national level (Bray Seton writes).

The two parties met in Plymouth on Saturday, for the third time since December, to decide which should put up a candidate to fight the 15 local seats for the alliance. It had already been decided that the Liberals should produce the candidates for nine and the SDP six.

Afterwards they said that they had reached conditional agreement for all but three seats under the existing boundaries: those of St Ives, Honiton and Plympton. All Conservative-held. Negotiators could not agree who had the best chance of success.



Family party: Mr Harry Nagelsztajn and his sister Manya (centre) with (from left) Kathie Janger, Joan and Michael Kornblit, Cecilia Nagelsztajn, Majir Kornblit, and Judith and Michael Nagelsztajn.

## 39 years to catch up on

A brother and sister who were reunited in Newcastle upon Tyne at the weekend, each having assumed the other had perished at the hands of the Nazis in 1943, yesterday began to catch up on those 39 intervening years (Our Newcastle Correspondent writes).

Mr Harry Nagelsztajn, aged 56, now a builder and father of four, of Thornbury Close, Gosforth, Newcastle, who believed his sister Manya had been killed by a Gestapo execution squad in their home town of Hrubieszow, east Poland, said: "I am the happiest man in the world. I feel over the moon. For nearly 40 years I believed I had no family. Now I have a

sister and we have a lot of talking to do."

His sister, now 58, who married Mr Majir Kornblit, her childhood Polish sweetheart, and emigrated to the United States in 1950, said: "Today we can talk. Last night we were too happy to find words to say what we felt. We have discovered that we were almost certainly in Auschwitz at the same time. But men and women were kept apart and Harry was moved to a camp in Austria."

Her son, Mr Michael Kornblit, finally found her brother after she had met a cousin in Israel a few weeks ago who had received a letter from Mr Nagelsztajn in 1946.

## MPs attack Owen's plea for contest

By Craig Seton

Fears that the Social Democratic Party was in danger of becoming embroiled in a damaging nine-month contest for the leadership were voiced by several of the party's MPs last night.

They were directing most of their anger at Dr David Owen for letting it be known that he wants a contest for the leadership and saying that he is determined to stand if Mrs Shirley Williams decides after the SDP's constitutional conference next month not to challenge Mr Roy Jenkins for the post.

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## Ulster issue brought into Irish election

From Richard Ford, Dublin

The issue of Northern Ireland was brought into the Irish Republic's general election campaign yesterday when Dr Garret FitzGerald contrasted his party's attitude towards devolution and the majority community in the province with that of Fianna Fail.

But the Irish Prime Minister emphasised that the differences were of attitude and there was agreement between his Fine Gael-Labour Government and Mr Charles Haughey's Opposition on Northern Ireland and the Anglo-Irish talks.

Dr FitzGerald said that he was certain Mr Haughey, who initiated the Anglo-Irish talks, would wish them to continue.

Mr Haughey, who says that Northern Ireland is his top political priority, and the Prime Minister, agree that Ulster is unlikely to play an important role in the campaign, which today enters its first full week. Mr Haughey said that his party had made formal and informal contacts with the Unionists in an attempt to establish trust and confidence, although during the last Fianna Fail government there had been hardly any contacts.

Dr FitzGerald said that although the majority community and his Government differed in their objectives, he had had overwhelming support from both communities in the North, who saw the advantages of reducing tension by a better relationship with the Republic.

He added: "Mr Haughey has on several occasions expressed doubts and scepticism about any movement toward devolution in Northern Ireland, even within the context of the Anglo-Irish negotiations which have taken place."

Acid bombs, petrol bombs and bricks were thrown at the police and soldiers by 200 youths in Londonderry last night at the end of a demonstration to mark the tenth anniversary of Bloody Sunday, when 13 people were killed by troops (our Londonderry Correspondent writes). About 3,000 people took part in yesterday's parade.

Mr Kevin Cullen, executive member of Provisional Sinn Féin, told a Sinn Féin rally attended by 1,500 people in Birmingham yesterday that Irish freedom could come only through armed struggle (our Birmingham Correspondent writes).

He said at the Bloody Sunday rally: "Freedom will come through the M16 (rifle) and the armalite rifle. We shall achieve freedom like Zimbabwe, through the barrel of a gun."

Police in the Irish Republic have found a big terrorist bomb planted to trap British troops on the border with Co Monaghan (the Press Association reports). The explosives, found with detonating wires near Clones, were described as a massive device.

In a linked search nearby, the police discovered an apparent Provisional IRA arms dump, including 50,000 rounds of ammunition, five high-powered rifles, a mortar bomb, detonators, timing equipment and mercury switches.

## GLC HAS NO FUNDS FOR MORTGAGES

By a Staff Reporter

The Greater London Council will be unable to issue any mortgages during the financial year, and will drastically reduce its home-building programme.

A spokesman said yesterday that this meant fewer than 300 homes would be built instead of a planned 1,300. "The council has run out of money for mortgages before, but has never started a financial year unable to give any loans."

The spokesman said the council would also end aid to housing associations, stop the creation of housing action areas and spending on rent-a-room schemes. The reduced housing programme was agreed on Thursday by the housing committee.

More long-term planning for the needs of mentally handicapped adults living at home is called for today in a study by the Campaign for Mentally Handicapped People.

It says that 60,000 mentally handicapped adults are being looked after by their families, but in many cases the parents have made no plans for what will happen when they can no longer manage. It says planning should not start when parental support ends through illness or death. Short-term residential care must be available so that the handicapped person becomes used to living away from home before it becomes necessary.

Programmes at adult training centres should be geared to increasing the independence of mentally handicapped people living with their parents.

If mentally handicapped adults are to be more fully

## TUC SEEK MORE FOR JOBLESS

By Pat Bealy

Social Services Correspondent

Benefit cuts have left the unemployed poorer than at any time in the past 15 years, the TUC says today in launching its Benefit Charter for the Unemployed.

The benefit levels amounted to a "national shame of kicking the unemployed when they were already down."

Mr Alan Fisher, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said:

"The charter calls for immediate restoration of benefit cuts, the extension of long-term supplementary benefits to the unemployed, and for supplementary benefit to be paid immediately to unemployed school-leavers."

Addressing a weekend conference of more than a hundred delegates representing organisations for the disabled, he admitted that there had been little more money but said he was determined to ensure that a leap forward was made when financial resources permitted.

A Government report on the international year will be published in the next few months, Mr Rossi told the Blackpool conference, which was organized jointly by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) and Lancashire County Council.

He said there had been a nagging fear that all the enthusiasm generated last year would disappear at the end of the year. But there was now a far greater awareness of the needs, abilities, and aspirations of disabled people and a great deal of ignorance existing 13 months ago had been dispelled.

## Policemen hurt as gangs clash in Bristol

From a Staff Reporter Bristol

Extra police were in the streets in Bristol last night after two nights of clashes between mixed groups of white and black youths. Two petrol bombs were thrown and riot shields were used when two policemen were attacked and injured, one seriously.

Twenty-one youths, 13 black and eight white, were arrested on Friday and Saturday night and 18 face charges, including theft of motor vehicles and assault on the police. Some are to appear in court this morning.

Avon and Somerset police emphasized yesterday that the incidents were nowhere near as serious as the St Paul's riot in the city two years ago, when 20 policemen were injured and more than 100 of damage were caused, although one of the rival gangs this weekend was from that area.

Chief Supt. Malcolm Popplewell, who is in charge of the St Paul's area, said: "These youths are the ones that cause trouble at football matches, and they are now causing trouble in the streets."

Discussions were held between police and community leaders yesterday about the clashes. It was understood the talks were aimed at averting more serious disturbances.

The two policemen were injured in St Nicholas Road, St Paul's, late on Saturday night when they were attacked with petrol bombs by the rival gangs.

Police Constable Ian Bennett, who was appointed to St Paul's as a community policeman after the 1980 riots, was hit by bricks and was "fairly poorly" injured. Constable Roy Infirmary was hit in the head and injured last night. The hospital said that he was semi-conscious, but was expected to improve. His colleague was only slightly injured.

Police said the gangs, about 80 strong in all, clashed on both nights in the Lawrence Hill and Barton Hill areas, but ran off into St Paul's, where the two constables were attacked. Police reinforcements were called.

More than a hundred policemen had been involved and no officers had been called in from outside forces.

It was not known why the two gangs had fought, but the trouble had started with an altercation on Friday night.

## Bethell sues airline over high fares

By Michael Bealy

Transport Correspondent

Lord Bethell is to take his fight against high European air fares to stage further this week by suing Sabena, the Belgian airline, for allegedly overcharging him.

As European MP for London, North-west, Lord Bethell flies regularly to Brussels, paying £100 a time. He has a discount ticket, which he estimates is about £50 too much, and he is suing Sabena for damages through the English courts.

"I am asking the court to declare how much I have been overcharged and to ask Sabena to pay me damages and costs," Lord Bethell said yesterday.

"The court might like to take account of the much lower fare offered by British Caledonian some time ago and turned down by the Belgian Government on the advice of Sabena."

"Over my six years as a member of the European Parliament I estimate that I have been charged at least £5,000 too much on flights to and from Brussels."

"I am doing this because although I hope to win my case in Luxembourg in April, there is always an element of doubt where the law is concerned and this case should increase the chance that the courts will rule on the main issue, that competition rules of the Rome Treaty apply to air transport."

Lord Bethell is relying on recent legal opinions which suggest that articles 85 and 86 of the treaty are part of English law, and that it is improper to fix prices on a cartel basis without allowing the consumer any alternative.

Lord Bethell hopes to save money by suing through an English court.

"I am doing a lot of the legal work myself, although I am not a lawyer, and I am contributing from my own pocket." Time to strike balance, page 9

Leading article, page 9

## Science report

## Baby's cry may have guided evolution

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

Tiny vibrations in the ear, smaller than those caused when a pin drops, can be detected by an apparatus developed for ear specialists by scientists working for the Medical Research Council.

The invention, referred to as a clinical tympanometer, is also of great potential importance to industry, the safety testing of huge machines, like power station generators, airplane engines and ships' turbines.

The main advance came in the way found by a team of biomedical engineers and neurophysiologists at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, north London, to measure the smallest movements of the ear drum without touching the body.

Other medical research using lasers has shown that tiny vibrations could be detected by a method using a laser beam. However, a laser light would warm the tissues on to which it is focused, it would alter the characteristics of the organ.

The solution has come in the development of micro-electronic components that allow ordinary white light to be used for measuring vibrations.

For the doctor or patient the process is simple. Light is shone into the ear with the sort of instrument commonly used for scrutinising the ear drum.

The instrument is modified in three ways: a miniature noise generator composed of a microelectronic circuit, a fibre optic cable transmits the signal from the photodetector to a micro-computer analyser.

Analyses of the behaviour of the eardrum show that a perfect ear responds to the sound with maximum vibrations at about 2,500 cycles.

That is surprising, since it is a higher note than the main component of a human voice. The scientists speculate that perhaps the evolution of the ear has allowed for the warning signals, such as a baby's cry, that a mother can detect most readily.

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## MINISTER STAYS OUT OF DISPUTE

By Our Labour Reporter

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, has refused to become involved in a dispute between the National Union of Journalists and the newspaper industry over the instructions of Mr Rupert Murdoch, the proprietor, rather than Mr Frank Giles, the editor, to the Sunday Times over the executive actions which the newspaper's National Union of Journalists members claim were carried out on the instructions of Mr Murdoch.

The NUJ members claimed that the guarantees on the rights of editors of *The Sunday Times* and *The Times* were written into the articles of association of the company and any dispute relating to those rights should be referred to the newspaper's five independent national directors.

The NUJ members claimed that the guarantees given by the minister by Mr Murdoch, when ownership of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* were transferred to News International last February had been breached in a staff dismissal, and a senior demotion and a senior appointment.

Biffen said he did not want to see "unwarranted governmental interference" in the press, but asked the union to provide evidence if it believed other "free-standing" conditions of the transfer of ownership had been breached.

Mr Peter Wilby, father (chairman) of the NUJ chapel (office branch) at the newspaper, said last night that the journalists would seek a meeting with the national directors, Lord Dacre of Glendon, Lord Greene of Harrow Weald, Sir Edward Pickering, Lord Robens of Woldingham and Lord Roll of Ipsden.

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## BL Cars cuts cost of energy

In a year when the nation's energy prices rose by around 20%, BL's car operations actually achieved a saving of £1 million on their £24 million energy bill. Despite an increase in production.

These savings are due to comprehensive monitoring of energy usage.

together with extensive use of micro-processors to control key areas such as heating and lighting.

Another sign of the determination of BL Cars to keep production costs under the tightest control.

BL Fighting back

## STAMPS UP, PHONE CALLS DOWN

By Clive Cookson

Postal charges go up today by an average of 9.3 per cent. The new rates start at 12½p for an inland second-class letter and 15½p for first class.

Prices would not be raised again for at least a year, Mr Ronald Dearing, chairman of the Post Office, said yesterday. The Post Office said the increase was about 2 per cent below the general rate of inflation



# Labour leaders begin to change tack on EEC

By George Clark, European Political Correspondent

Subtle changes in the Labour Party's presentation of its case for taking Britain out of the European Economic Community are being prepared to avert the looming crisis in relations with other socialist parties in Europe.

Confidential minutes of the last joint meeting of the Labour MEPs and the party's national executive committee in London, which *The Times* has obtained, reveal the dilemma.

The minutes say: "Mr (Wedge) Benn suggested that, rather than talk about 'withdrawal from Europe', an emotive phrase, we should start talking about 'extricating ourselves from the Treaty of Rome', which was factually more correct. He thought that MEPs should advise the NEC on relationships and cooperation with fraternal parties after withdrawal, and on the technical problems of exitation."

Mr Alfred Lomas, European MP for London, North-East, said that other members of the socialist group in the European Parliament "had a slightly more exaggerated view of our withdrawal than the rest of their parties".

A big effort will be made to patch up the differences when Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, and Mr Eric Heffer, the frontbench spokesman on Europe, visit Brussels on Wednesday and Thursday next week to meet the 123 member socialist group of the European Parliament and, later, representatives of the party organizations in Europe.

Like it or not, the Labour Party has attracted to itself the isolationist, some say nationalistic, sounding slogan: "Let's get out of Europe!"

But Mr Foot and Mr Heffer, now strongly supported by Mr Benn, want to convince their European comrades that their object is really to move out of the

anti-socialist restrictions of the EEC into a wider European Community where there would be freedom to protect the interests of workers more effectively than is possible in a grouping dominated by big business.

The slogan, they say, should be: "We want to move into Europe!"

So far, Labour's public relations exercise has been a failure. The 17 Labour MEPs at Strasbourg are virtually excluded from important decisions taken by the socialist group in Europe, and the threat of British withdrawal also brushes off on to the Conservatives. Once again Britain is seen as a reluctant and ever-complaining partner.

One Labour MEP said yesterday of the British group's relations with their European socialist colleagues: "On a personal level we are friendly, but they show great hostility to our policy of coming out. We are often treated like mutineers."

"British Labour backbenchers hardly ever get selected as socialist spokesmen. Our only chance to speak at the plenary sessions is if we can get called on what is termed 'explanation of a vote', and even then we are limited to 90 seconds."

When the socialist group drafted a statement on Poland the British Labour MEPs were not given a chance to help in its composition. A British group which signed a motion on nuclear disarmament was cold-shouldered.

The minutes say: "Mrs Castle asked that details of why and how we are going to fight the EEC be ready for Mr Foot when he visits Brussels in February. She felt that because our strategy had not been planned we were not winning the argument for withdrawal either on the doorsteps or in the social group."

Mr Heffer, appointed to his job shortly before the meeting, agreed there was much

opposition to Labour's policy and misunderstanding about it among European socialists. He said it was "important to explain the policy carefully, remembering that all parties are arguing from a basis of national interest, and stressing that we are not anti-European."

Mr Benn intervened again to emphasise "that Britain's position within the EEC was different from that of other EEC countries."

"With the exception of the Irish, we are the only people who have never lived under fascism and although membership is a diminution of democracy for us, for other countries it is an extension of democracy. We in Britain have a different attitude towards the law. In Germany and France, legal matters are political..."

Mr Gordon Adam, MEP for Northumbria, is recorded as making a dry comment: "It is not so easy to separate political will and legal issues." The minute adds: "His constituents were more interested in practicalities, such as what would happen to the sheepmeat regime."

The minutes conclude with Mr Benn's stating that the presentation of the strategy must be extended, "but the question of membership of the Community should not be reopened."

Whether the party should fight the next election to the European Parliament in 1984 "was left on the table"; the question would be returned to "if and when it is thought necessary to do so."

Like the argument about the referendum, the question of fighting the European elections will be decided by a party conference to decide. If the decision is not to fight, there is no doubt that the Social Democratic Party will seek to fill the gap; it has already made tentative approaches to socialists in Europe. Much depends on how socialist the SDP policy proves to be when it is settled later this year.

## County may petition against new bridge

From Arthur Osman, Shrewsbury

Proposal in a Bill which Shropshire and Atcham District Council is to introduce in the present parliamentary session for a new road bridge over the River Severn at Shrewsbury and a multi-storey car park were described yesterday as "seriously damaging" for the historic town.

Shropshire County Council is expected to oppose the Bill at a special meeting on Friday so that it can lodge a petition against it on Saturday, the last day it can do so.

Both councils agree that a new multi-storey car park is needed but county councillors have been advised in a summary of the issues involved that in addition to it being a costly solution "it will arguably be seriously damaging both directly and indirectly to the historic town of Shrewsbury, a nationally important conservation area."

The Bill proposes a bridge and road to enable the car park to be built within the loop of the river by the English Bridge. The county was not consulted before the Bill was drafted.

Some years ago the county supported an abortive scheme which included a footbridge over the river. It said a road bridge would inevitably provide a dangerous conflict with traffic for children using Wakeman comprehensive school, alongside which the new main road would run.

The school would also lose some of its land and its play area would be below the statutory minimum.

"In environmental and tourism terms the Bill could lead to schemes which will have a significant impact on the skyline and river frontage. This is currently being made more intensively residential in character."

"The cost of bridging the river will make inevitable the maximum commercial parking use of land on the town centre side of the river, then accessible by way of the bridge."

"This will have the effect of making irrevocable changes which are hardly likely to improve the environmental qualities of the area — one river frontage has been radically altered on the Smithfield side of the town centre, seriously eroding the aesthetic quality of that side of the town. To do the same to this side could be argued to be highly undesirable."

The county structure plan favoured as a priority a multi-storey car park in the area but last year the council considered parking should be improved as quickly as possible by a joint venture involving public and private interests.



## Three men, a mountain and a mystery

Three famous faces of Everest were in London yesterday. Reinhold Messner (left) from the South Tyrol, who climbed the mountain alone in 1980, Professor Noel Odell (right), aged 91, the last man to see Mallory and Irvine alive in 1924, and Captain John Noel (centre), aged 91, photographer on the 1922 and 1924 expeditions, met to talk about their old adversary (Ronald Faux writes).

Reinhold Messner twice climbed Everest without using artificial oxygen, sustained by the historical fact that Noel Odell had spent many days at high altitudes on the mountain in

his tweeds and clinker-nailed boots supporting the early British attempts.

Messner said: "Quite eminent doctors told me that my brain would be damaged by climbing at these altitudes, but when I see Professor Odell I do not worry any more. He is in splendid health." The professor agreed: "Those expeditions never did me any harm. I seemed to thrive on them. Mind you, I did play a lot of rugby football after them."

The mystery of whether Mallory and Irvine reached the summit came perhaps a small step closer to solution. According to Messner, the

question revolves around whether Odell saw them on the first or second "step" that outcrops from the North Ridge. Professor Odell saw the two climbers through breaks in the cloud on the step and outlined against the sky. Messner argued that could only have been on the first step, since the route up the second was hidden from view in a difficult corner. The sighting was at noon, which left too little time for Mallory and Irvine to climb the second step and reach the summit before dark. The balance of probability was that they died after abandoning their attempt.

## Nurses want strict control of pay beds

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Tighter control over the growth of private health care has been demanded by the Royal College of Nursing and in an editorial in *The Lancet* as the number of new private beds planned reaches 2,000.

Thirty-five proposed private hospitals are awaiting planning permission. If built they will bring the total number of private beds in England and Wales to 34,000 compared to 455,000 in the National Health Service.

For private hospitals with fewer than 120 beds development permission does not have to be obtained from the Department of Health and Social Security, but the department has to be notified.

*The Lancet* this week demands a public inquiry into the plan to build a 100-bed private hospital in Southampton opposite Southampton General Hospital, which has been approved by the city's planning committee.

It predicts that the plan will result in competition between the two hospitals for scarce resources of manpower and specialist services, and criticizes the fact that for new private hospitals of fewer than 120 beds the planning authority is required to make its decision solely on planning grounds.

"Even if the health authorities declare that the proposal would be to the detriment of the work of the health service, that opinion, apparently, can have no weight with the planning body. This unsatisfactory situation should be changed."

If the planning committee's decision cannot be instantly reversed then it should at least be subject to a public inquiry.

Increasing pressure from its membership has persuaded the Royal College of Nursing to revise its views on private medicine, which it used to believe should be allowed to expand according to market forces.

It has now become concerned that, with the accelerated growth of the private sector in the wake of government encouragement, the recruitment campaigns by the medical insurance companies, the provision of health care might become polarized.

"Medical insurance is on the whole available only to those in employment; the

## Gas search starts off Blackpool

From John Charters, Blackpool

British Gas offshore explorers have started to drill the first of a new series of boreholes in the Morecambe Bay area of the Irish sea, only a few miles from their recently proven gasfield which is expected to deliver 1,800 million cubic feet per day by 1986.

Considerable interest in the £35,000 a day operation is being taken by civic leaders and others concerned with the job hungry and economically deprived north-west region — particularly by those clamouring for more opportunities in the Merseyside area.

The new £25m Singapore-built drilling rig Apollo II is positioned over the site of Blackpool Tower with its bays already more than 2,000 feet into the seabed and a fairly confident expectation by the experts aboard, of gas being found in the next few days.

British Gas executives who have been taking parties of journalists to see the rig are retaining the customary caution over making firm predictions, nevertheless they frequently refer to their successful past record in following up predictions made by their geologists and seismologists. British Gas offshore explorers claim a success rate of of about one in four for their boreholes compared with a worldwide gas and oil rate of one in 14.

Even if the presence of gas is proved shortly, from number one well in number seven square of block 110 in the Irish Sea, it may be many weeks, or even years before a decision can be made on whether the Morecambe Bay field is worth exploiting commercially.

The drilling off Blackpool is the first part of a programme by British Gas involving the exploration of the west coast of England and during the first half of this year and later others in licensed areas in the English channel and the North Sea.

Although the job prospects from offshore gas projects are relatively tiny in relation to the needs of such areas as Merseyside, west Cumbria and the industrial north-west as a whole, considerable interest is being taken because of the ripple effect for small companies able to provide technical and supply services

Average weekly consumption of butter in Britain has fallen by a fifth in the last two years, a survey published today shows.

The figures, for the third quarter of last year, predate the recent controversial newspaper advertising campaign which may have succeeded in halting or reversing the growing preference for margarine. But they are bound to cause further gloom in the dairy industry, which is faced with declining markets for both liquid milk and butter at a time of ever increasing EEC surpluses.

Sales seem certain to fall still further if the latest farm price proposal by the European Commission are implemented. The proposed increases would mean a rise

in butter prices of about 8p a pound, it is estimated.

Moreover, there is growing opposition among EEC governments to the special differential subsidy paid to British butter consumers, at present worth about 13p a pound. Mr Bjorn Westh, the Danish Agriculture Minister, said yesterday in Copenhagen that his government was anxious to see it phased out.

The subsidy was originally imposed to help to dispose of the so-called butter mountain, and reflected Britain's importance as the Community's main import market.

Officially the mountain no longer exists, although there were dark hints from Mr Poul Dalsager, the EEC Agriculture commissioner, in Berlin recently about what

might happen if the United States was forced to dispose of its dairy surpluses on world markets.

Consumption of eggs, sugar, beef, potatoes, white bread and coffee was also lower in the third quarter of 1981 than the average for 1979. But people were eating more cheese, lamb, pork, green vegetables, fresh fruit and brown bread.

Long checkout queues at supermarkets were the latest cause of complaint, followed by poor standards of service. Shoppers grumbled about cheeky, condescending and generally unhelpful shop assistants.

A third of those in the survey thought prices for necessities were unreasonable, and one in ten claimed to have been obliged to cut down on spending on food.

Though a high proportion of people felt they had bought unsatisfactory goods, only 3 per cent said they felt they needed more information or advice on shopping or their rights. Even of those who did feel they needed advice, only half had obtained it.

## Secrecy dilemma for authors

### Bird books help thieves to rob rare nests

By David Nicholson-Lord

Respected conservationists may be making the task of birds' egg collectors and nest robbers simpler by their readiness to publish information about breeding and nesting grounds.

Despite increasing efforts to enforce secrecy, details given in many newly published wildlife books continue to direct human predators towards the nests of protected birds.

Examples include the golden eagle, peregrine falcon, greenback, dotted and chough, all of which have been considered sufficiently threatened to be placed on Schedule 1 of the new Wildlife and Countryside Act. Under Section 1 of the act penalties are imposed even for disturbing such birds, while they are nest-building.

But concern about publication of sensitive sites extends to other forms of animal and plant life protected by law. The dilemma, successful conservation versus public interest and the right to know, is at its acutest over birds because of the sharp rise in popularity of ornithology as a hobby. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, for instance, has 450,000 members.

Examples cited by critics range from cheaper books to works of reference which, the RSPB acknowledges, however inadvertently the information is given, form an important weapon in the egg collector's armoury.

Dr Derek Ratcliffe, chief



Golden eagle: Act says 'Do not disturb'.



Peregrine falcon: Coastal haunts revealed.

scientist at the Nature Conservancy Council, in a work published in 1980 speaks of the popularity of Lake District sites with the peregrine falcon and adds: "One day has up to four pairs nesting within its catchment."

He also describes a headland in the only coastal nesting station in the North-west, and in the South-west, where peregrine populations have recovered considerably in the last decade, they are said to have spread down the Cornish Atlantic coast from the Devon border and to have reoccupied coastal haunts in Somerset, several of which have been named previously.

A book about greenbacks by one of Britain's best known and most respected ornithologists, includes a list of breeding grounds, listing individual lochs, glens, moors and mountains in Scotland.

Specialist maps point to inland and coastal sites for little and roseate terns, both schedule 1 species. They were apparently based on data supplied by a senior RSPB official before he joined the society.

A review by the Nature Conservancy Council goes further, listing 735 sites of scientific interest where protected species can be found, and also supplying Ordnance Survey grid references. Although the locations of the very rarest birds and plants are not disclosed, map references are nevertheless given for sites, often only a few score acres in size, where schedule 1 species such as Savi's warbler, choughs, bitterns and marsh and Montagu's harrier can be found.

Tables in the review show that a "substantial proportion, probably approaching 50 per cent" of the total populations of honey buzzards, marsh harriers, black-backed gulls, bitterns, garganey and dotterel are on the sites listed. Total populations of the first two species is put at fewer than nine pairs and of the others fewer than 99 pairs.

Some published references may appear, to the layman, to be sufficiently imprecise. But conservationists acknowledge that many collectors have a command of fieldcraft and tracking of birds far exceeds that of ordinary ornithologists.

Collectors are said to have gurned naked across lochs clutching eggs in their mouths, scaled precipitous crags with ropes and climbing irons and used firework-like spears to flush out cliff-nesting species like choughs. One method of locating a nightjar's eggs is for two men to drag a rope across a heath to startle the bird into the air.

The RSPB is also seriously concerned by what it describes as a frightening increase in the number of collectors. The society knows of some 900 active collectors but believes there are many more. Last year more than 1,000 incidents were reported to its small investigations unit but successful prosecutions remain difficult and relatively few.

The potential for disturbance is also being increased by the expanding armies of "tickers" and "twitters", birdwatchers with checklists and a mania for rarities.

The dilemma of how much information to disclose dates back at least twenty years to the Loch Garten ospreys, robbed despite an RSPB guard after initial publicity, but shows every sign of becoming a permanent resolve. The RSPB has itself been criticized, notably over advertisements from guest houses in its magazine, *Birds*, extolling the delights of red kite or golden eagle country and giving addresses.

The society says it checks them carefully and also tries to screen other forthcoming publications. Recently, it says, it stopped the Scottish Tourist Board bringing out a detailed viewing map for rare birds. Checking for series like the *British Birds* reports is done by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.

One persistent critic of the RSPB on this issue is Mr Eric Hardy, the well-known North Country naturalist and writer, who resigned from the society because, he says, it numbered too many collectors among its members.

Mr Hardy, who has received criticism for disclosing sites in newspaper columns, argues that prospective members should be asked to state that they are not collectors and because that double standards operate, for the "privileged" and the general public. Agreements on non-disclosure should apply to books and scientific journals as well as newspapers, he says.

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## Poland: Culture in crisis

## Artistic community plans subversion by stealth

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 31

Other people may reach for their guns when the word "culture" is mentioned, but Poland's Military Council is still deliberating on whether a hammer or a feather duster is the more appropriate instrument for dealing with the country's unruly actors, writers and artists.

Should it allow Poland's cultural establishment to retain its traditional independence — even if that means putting up with politically critical work? Or should it crack down now before matters get out of hand?

The results of this vacillation is a corresponding uncertainty among the artistic community. The first instinctive response, of course, was to condemn martial law out of hand: the latest critical petition was signed by 120 writers and artists, including Andrzej Wajda, the film director responsible for such films as *Man of Marble* and *Man of Iron*, which describe the roots of popular protest in postwar Poland.

Dozens of actors claim to have been handed in their party cards and there is an informal boycott of television appearances.

But as the weeks of martial law become months, so the cultural establishment is realizing that a less forthright approach might be in order: subversion by artistic stealth.

If anything, this view was reinforced by the recent speech of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the Military Council, who said that the system of cultural affairs emphasized the need to bring art closer to the people. That may be disturbing news for abstract painters, but figurative painters, film directors and writers should be able to ensure that the last rehearsal was acceptable.

Now the directors can take few risks. One offensive or politically ambiguous remark in a play could spell the end of the production before it even begins. Thus the director of Mrozek's play *Director* about political freedom had

earnest tractor drivers staring mystically at the socialist dawn.

The uncertainty remains, however, and the most vulnerable are the performing arts. Actors and directors in the theatre and the cinema were the most heavily politicized over the past two years — most of them were in Solidarity, the independent union, or at least were sympathizers.

Actors — and Mr Wajda — are the ones who have been attending the summary trials of Solidarity activists. Actors have been ostentatiously helping the church relief operation for those interned. Critics say that certain "interment chic" has sprung up, and at least one film technician of my acquaintance has expressed a sense of regret that he was not arrested with his friends in the movement. It is a regret that reflects the now widely held belief that intellectuals are being held in reasonable conditions. Actors have also been staging an informal boycott of television appearances.

The people who have to carry the bulk of political responsibility are the theatre directors. They have to ensure that the radicalism of the actors and actresses does not spread over into dangerous areas. Under martial law, the censor has to read and approve new plays, and then views the last dress rehearsal before giving the final go-ahead.

Although the censor existed before martial law, he has been treated as something of a joke. It was very lax supervision at best, and a few stylistic tricks sufficed to ensure that the last rehearsal was acceptable.

Now the directors can take few risks. One offensive or politically ambiguous remark in a play could spell the end of the production before it even begins. Thus the director of Mrozek's play *Director* about political freedom had

to play it as a farce rather than as a satire to get it past the authorities. It is up to the audience to grasp the real unstated message.

Even so, nine plays have been withdrawn (perhaps only temporarily) from the Warsaw repertoire.

Some films have also been put on ice. It is understood for example that a planned film starring Krystyna Janda (the heroine of Wajda's films) tentatively called *The Interrogation* has been suspended.

The key to artistic resistance to martial law restrictions is Wajda, probably the Polish artist with the widest international following and respect. Wajda knows that the community has great expectations of him, and that has made him all the more reluctant to sign petitions or campaign vociferously against internment.

He sees himself first and foremost as a filmmaker who has, admittedly, dealt with politically sensitive subjects in the past. If he were to become an active political campaigner, he would not much be gained but his film-making would lose. He wants to carry on living and working in Poland; that at any rate is what one of his friends has to say. Wajda himself has been very reluctant to speak to Westerners in Poland.

Without a central figure to rally around, the artistic community will no doubt get on with doing what they can within the limits of the system and hope for a relaxation. Certainly some musicians and dancers are being allowed to travel to the West. This is greeted with relief, for passport controls are currently extremely strict and defections are a real possibility.

But the most enduring question is how the Military Council and the party will shift the overall policy towards the cultural establishment.



Food price increases in Poland

## Farmers in France on offensive

From Jonathan Fenby, Paris, Jan 31

French farmers, always quick to leap to their own defence, are fighting on four fronts to ensure that their earnings in 1982 do not fall victim to the British Government, Italian wine producers, Spanish vegetable growers or the European Commission.

After six months in which cheap Italian wine imports were the most explosive subject on the French agricultural scene, Britain has taken over in the past week as the main bugbear of the country's 700,000 farmers.

The failure of the European Community nations to agree an agricultural budget is blamed squarely on what the French young farmers' organization called "British exorbitant pretensions". The 9 per cent increase in farm food prices proposed by the EEC Commission last week came in for an equally harsh reception, being described variously as scandalous and sufficing.

At Francis Guillaume, the president of the main farmers' federation, is due to see President Mitterrand on Tuesday to put his members' case for a 16 per cent increase in revenue this year.

Wine-growers on the Mediterranean coast in the south-east were out in force at the end of last week. Their target was Italian wine imports, which sell at prices that French growers cannot match, and which have been resumed, after a lull in the autumn.

After a rally of 1,500 growers in Béziers on Friday, Agriculture Ministry officials agreed to block imports of Italian wine until their prices rose to French levels.

The wine-growers have been joined in their militancy by fruit and vegetable producers in the south-west who are worried about cheap Spanish imports.

## Israel accepts Sinai peacekeeping force

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Jan 31

The Israeli Cabinet today finally approved the participation of British, French, Italian and Indian troops in the multinational force to police Sinai after the Israelis complete their withdrawal in April.

The force of 2,500 from 11 countries would also include Australian and New Zealand troops. The Americans, who undertook to organize the force when the United Nations refused, will provide half the troops. Norway will supply the commander. Other participants will be Colombia, Uruguay and Fiji.

The Israelis had opposed the involvement of the four European countries after their governments last year coupled the announcement of their participation with statements of support for the EEC's Venice Declaration, which supports a separate Palestine. The Israelis were particularly upset by Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, implying Britain was joining to make sure Arab lands were returned to the Arabs.

The Americans tried to soften the impact by issuing a joint statement with the Israelis affirming that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was the sole basis for the force. The Israelis demanded the Europeans endorse it. Replies reached Jerusalem in January but Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was not satisfied.

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, obtained further clarification from the Europeans and the Israelis said they were now satisfied.

The Cabinet also discussed the weekend capture of three Al-Fatah terrorists from Jordan. Two other infiltrators were killed in the incident, which was followed by a dramatic Saturday night press conference.

Beirut Syria was reported here to have proposed a three-point peace plan for the Middle East that calls for an end of the state of war with Israel (AP reports).

The plan was set down by Mr Ahmed Iskandar, the Syrian Minister of Information, in an interview with the Lebanese weekly magazine *Monday Morning*.

Syrian arrests: Syrian authorities have rounded up about 500 dissidents and executed 30 to 50 officers, a plot to overthrow the Government of President Hafez Assad, Western Intelligence and Arab sources said.

## Churchmen expelled by Venda

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town, Jan 31

Bishop Desmond Tutu, the outspoken black general secretary of the multi-racial South African Council of Churches, and its president, the Rev Peter Storey, have been expelled from the "Independent" black homeland of Venda after trying to visit churchmen detained there without trial.

Four of the eight pastors of Venda's Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is a member of the SAAC, and a number of prominent laymen are being held. A lay preacher died in prison last November, allegedly after torture, and there are rumours of two other deaths.

Meanwhile, the South African Government appears to be obstructing a visit to Venda by a delegation of overseas churchmen led by the Right Rev Uwe Holm, vice-bishop of the Protestant church of Berlin. Visas for the delegation were requested in November, but have not yet been issued. A representative of the Lutheran Church in Sweden was turned back at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport last week.

Bishop Tutu and Mr Storey drove to Venda in the north-east corner of South Africa last Friday. After calling at the home of local clergymen they went to the police station at Thohoyandou, the Venda capital and casino complex, and asked to visit the detainees.

The request was refused, and the two men were escorted to the border by police cars.

Venda is the most blatantly corrupt and unpopular of the four black mini-states which have accepted internationally unrecognized independence from Pretoria in line with the apartheid strategy of territorial separation of the races.

The tiny territory is also vulnerable, being bordered to the north by Zimbabwe and separated from Mozambique to the east only by the Kruger National Park.

Despite heavy defeats in two elections, Mr Patrick Mphahlele, Venda's barely literate President, has managed to stay in power, by securing the support of the 42 chiefs who fill the local assembly, and when necessary by locking up opposition MPs.

## SAUDIS KEEN TO BUY MORE ARMS

Riyadh, Jan 31. — Saudi Arabia is buying small weapons from France and is in the market for advanced military hardware "from friendly industrialized nations", Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi Defence Minister, said today.

M. Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister, signed an agreement today to enlarge and set up training facilities for the Saudi navy, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

France already has a 14,500m franc (about £1,700m) contract to supply the Saudi navy with missile firing frigates, supply ships, coastal defence installations and helicopters for naval warfare.

Saudi Arabia has a navy of 2,200 men to guard more than 2,250 km of coast on the Red Sea and the Gulf, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies. — AP and Reuters

The demonstrators opposing the construction of a third runway gathered in the village of Waldorf near by.

Herr Leo Spahn, a spokesman for the Citizens' Action Group, said that 11 demonstrators were injured and five had to be treated in hospital.

Police said that yesterday 104 of their men were injured, six seriously, in clashes on woodland adjoining the airport, and later in the centre of Frankfurt.

Opponents of the new runway say that it will mean the destruction of up to three million trees, and that extra traffic will make noise from the airport unbearable.

The action group, which had appealed for a peaceful protest, distanced itself from yesterday's violence when petrol bombs, branches and stones were hurled at the police.

Herr Spahn said it was possible that organized groups had come along determined to use violence. "The Citizens' Action Group has no influence over these people," he said.

He also said that the group and private individuals had taken photographs yesterday which, he alleged, showed policemen disguised as demonstrators attacking uniformed policemen. The same people were later seen arresting demonstrators, he said. A police spokesman denied the charge. — Reuters

In Sunday editions, the *Boston Globe* quoted a September, 1978, warning to Washington from Mr William Sullivan, Ambassador in Iran, that the Shah's crackdown on corruption at that time could

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Prisoners 'volunteer' for Golan

Tehran — Iran has decided to form a battalion of volunteers from Iraqi prisoners of war to oppose Israel, Tehran radio said.

The broadcast quoted Ayatollah Khomeini's representative on the Supreme Defence Council as saying that the force would be known as the Golan Battalion. The Golan Heights in Syria were annexed by Israel in December.

"There have been a lot of requests from Iraqi prisoners of war. They want to be given the chance to make up for their past mistakes and fight for the Islamic revolution," the representative said. "We thought tonight to allow the third staff command to form a battalion of the Iraqi volunteers and have the battalion prepared for dispatch to the border with Israel."

## Mafia suspect held in Rome

Rome. — Signor Enzo Coppola, who is 33 and alleged to be a Mafia leader, was arrested while undergoing treatment in a private clinic here police said.

They also said that Signor Coppola was likely to face charges of drug and arms trafficking in connection with a booming trade in heroin between Sicily and the United States. On medical advice, he was not taken to prison but placed under police guard at the clinic.

## Film award for Dudley Moore

Los Angeles. — Dudley Moore, who was voted best comedy actor for his role in *Arthur*, at Golden Globe awards here. Sir John Gielgud was the best supporting actor award and the film also took the awards for best comedy and best song.

Meryl Streep won the best dramatic actress award for her role in *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, and Burt Reynolds, *Paper Moon*, was chosen best comedy actor for her performance in *Pennies From Heaven*.

American move out. Bangkok. — About 20 women and children, who are American dependents, have been evacuated from the northern city of Chiang Mai after Thai forces clashed with an opium warlord in the so-called golden triangle, a United States consular spokesman said.

Two die in blast. Beirut. — Two Palestinians were killed when a car bomb exploded today in the southern Lebanese town of Sidon, security sources said. Another Palestinian in the car was seriously injured.

Body identified. Camerino. — Mr Stephen May has officially identified one of two bodies found near here as that of his wife, Jeannette, justice officials said. Dental records from London, confirmed the identification.

Rebels killed. Manila. — Thirteen Communist rebels have been killed in a government security forces in Zamboanga del Norte province.

## Film highlights US protest

By Our Foreign Staff

A weekend of international protest at the military takeover in Poland culminated last night in a television extravaganza featuring Western political leaders and entertainment personalities.

President Reagan, Mrs Thatcher, Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, Mitterrand and Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, took part in the 90 minute recording which was transmitted from the United States by satellite to 50 countries.

Called *Let Poland be Poland*, it drew a barrage of invective from its two targets, the authorities in Warsaw and Moscow. Tass said it was "a cheap show in the best Hollywood tradition", while Polish newspapers called it "a tragicomic farce".

Britain did not show the programme and only four Western countries, Australia, Norway, Luxembourg and Belgium, contracted to do so live.

Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Charlton Heston, Irwin Welsh, Kirk Douglas, Glenda



The Pope speaking yesterday in Poland.

Jackson, Joanne Woodward and the Swedish singing group Abba, took part with the political leaders. Abba is popular in the Soviet Union and the trade union newspaper *Trud* said it was saddened to see that the group was "under the orders of Reagan, Thatcher and certain Nato governments".

In a brief, taped message for the programme, Mrs Thatcher said that the flame

of freedom in Poland would not be extinguished by the imposition of martial law. "In Poland today the flame of freedom may seem to burn less brightly," she said.

"But it has not been extinguished, nor can it be. Sooner or later the oppressors will understand that they cannot impose their will upon men and women who ask only that Poland may truly represent the indomitable spirit of the Polish people."

In Rome, yesterday the Pope supported the Polish bishops in their recent call for an end to martial law and said that civil rights had to be defended in every walk of life.

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in St Peter's Square for the Sunday blessing, he thanked everyone who took part on Saturday in demonstrations against the suspension by the Polish martial law authorities of the independent trade union Solidarity.

In Britain, Mr Len Murray, the TUC leader, called for the immediate release of all trade unionists detained in Poland.

## News Analysis

## Haig under fire from the right

From Nicholson Ashford, Washington, Jan 31

It is a paradox of the political power game in Washington that, just when Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, finally seemed to have consolidated his position as America's foreign policy leader, his standing within the Administration is again beginning to look vulnerable.

Until a week or so ago the conventional wisdom in Washington was that Mr Haig, after months of skirmishing with his rivals in the White House and elsewhere in the Administration, was at last secure. "The Vicar (as Mr Haig is known in the State Department) had finally made it to the altar", one official commented.

His arch-opponent, Mr Richard Allen, had been unceremoniously ousted from his post as National Security Adviser, and replaced by Mr William Clark, who was Mr Haig's former deputy. He was one of the few members of President Reagan's "California Set" to like and respect the volatile Secretary of State, and even dissatisfied Mr Haig from resigning on at least one occasion.

Mr Allen's departure also coincided with the apparent decline in influence of Mr Edwin Meese, the President's Counsellor, who harboured ambitions to have a controlling influence in the conduct of American foreign policy.

At the same time Mr Haig had strengthened his position in the State Department by promoting two trusted career diplomats to top positions.

Mr Walter Stoessel, three times an ambassador and a foreign service officer for 40 years, is expected to become Deputy Secretary of State, a

post which has never been held by a career diplomat before. Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, who served in Europe while Mr Haig was Nato Commander, is to take over Mr Stoessel's old job.

Mr Haig also scored a number of foreign policy successes, such as persuading the President to agree to talks on reducing medium-range missiles in Europe, and not allowing Taiwan to jeopardise United States relations with China.

However, there has recently been a deluge of conservative attacks on Mr Haig, and in particular on the Administration's policy towards the Polish crisis. Mr Haig is being accused of being too soft and too pragmatic in his response to the Soviet Union, and of paying too much heed to the concerns of the United States European allies.

Even Liberal newspapers, such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, normally among his most staunch supporters, have carried articles suggesting that he is becoming politically and ideologically isolated from the rest of the Administration.

Mr Haig's growing band of right-wing critics have found an important (if somewhat surprising) ally in Dr Henry Kissinger, Mr Haig's former boss and political mentor. He wrote two articles in the *New York Times* (published also in *The Times*) earlier this month strongly attacking the Administration's handling of the Polish crisis.

The criticisms being levelled at Mr Haig are personal, political and ideological. His bluff, somewhat abrasive, style often causes

offence, as does his barely disguised ambition to run for President one day, despite his almost total lack of a political base.

Furthermore, Mr Haig's opponents can point to a number of areas where they believe American policy to be wanting. The Soviet Union has effectively intervened in Poland, and has not been deterred by American sanctions. Yet, despite Mr Haig's determination to preserve Western unity over Poland, the Nato alliance is more strained.

In Central America, the critics say, Cuban-backed guerrillas are continuing to make headway because the Administration's bark has not been accompanied by any bite.

Significantly, what was regarded as one of Mr Haig's new sources of strength and influence — the transfer of Mr Clark to run an upgraded National Security Council — is now being seen as his potential Achilles heel.

Mr Clark knows little about foreign policy, but he has the same political and ideological beliefs as the President, of whom he is an old friend and associate. It is now being suggested that Mr Clark, while not deliberately trying to undermine Mr Haig, will encourage the President to follow his own right-wing instincts in his future dealings with the Soviet Union over Poland.

The decision to reduce to one day Mr Haig's meeting with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, last week, and not to set a date for beginning strategic arms talks, is understood to have been inspired by Mr Clark.



**Prisoners 'volunteer' for Golan**

Tehran — Iran has announced that it has formed a battalion of volunteers from Iranian prisoners of war to fight in the Golan Heights. The broadcast quoted the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as saying that the force would be sent to the Golan Heights in Syria, which is occupied by Israel.

**Mafia suspect held in Rome**

Rome — A man suspected of being a Mafia boss has been arrested while on a visit to Rome. He is being held in connection with a case of drug trafficking in connection with the Mafia.

**Film award to Dudley Moore**

Dudley Moore has won the Best Actor award at the Venice Film Festival for his performance in the film 'Shogun'.

**Americans move to die in blast**

A group of American soldiers have been killed in a blast in the Lebanon.

**Identified**

The bodies of the American soldiers killed in the Lebanon have been identified.

**ets killed**

Several more people have been killed in the Lebanon.

**i-Sadr**

Mr. Sadr has been arrested in the Lebanon.

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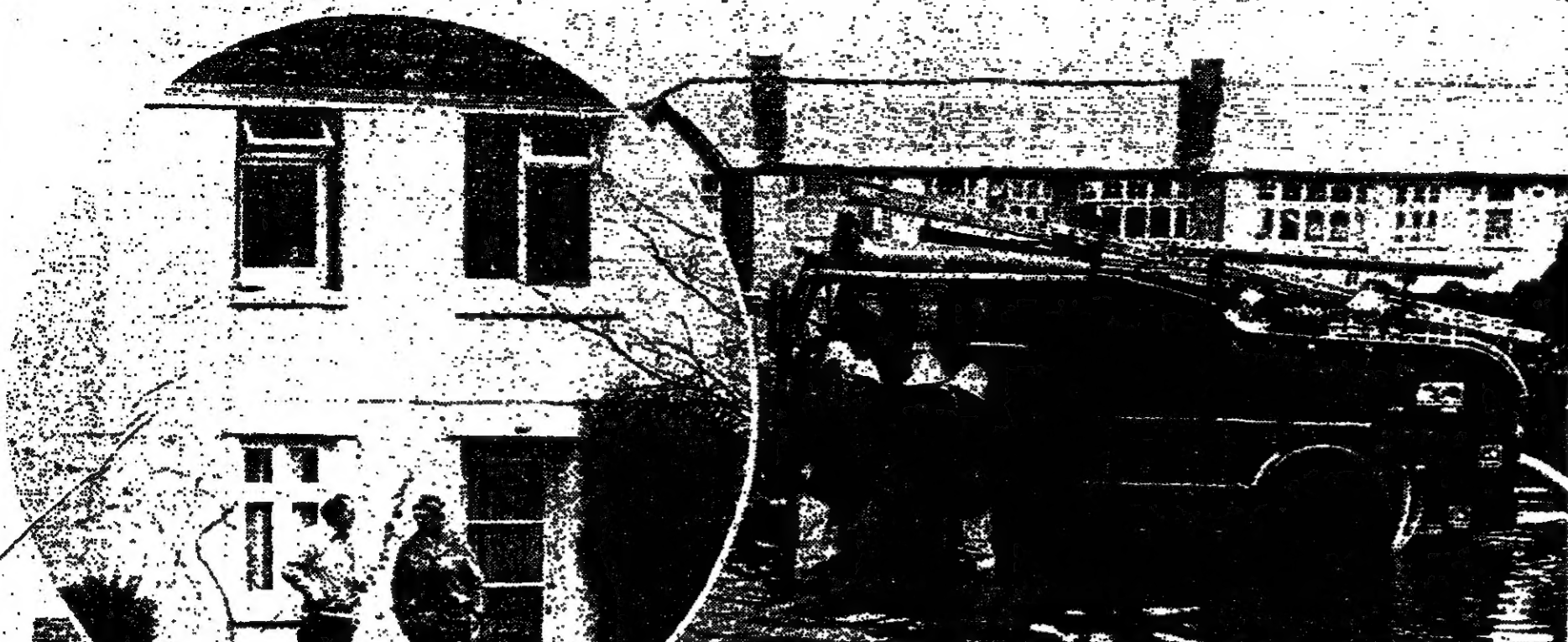
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# While others were assessing the damage, we were paying for it.



On the morning of January 11th 1978, you might have been forgiven for mistaking the streets of Sheerness for Amsterdam or Venice.

After a night of near hurricane force winds and waves as high as houses, the East Kent coastline was quite simply blown to bits.

In the light of this thirty-mile trail of devastation, it became clear to us at Commercial Union that there was only one way we could be of real help.

Not with tea and sympathy. Or vague promises of compensation.

But rather, by agreeing to claims immediately. On the spot.

Now, it's not every day you'll find us popping in on policyholders, with a view to popping a cheque in the post.

After all, like any other insurance company, every claim we deal with involves certain formalities.

There are details to be noted down. Policies to be checked

out. Assessments to be made. And so on.

A process that can take anything from five minutes to five months. Or even longer.

Speaking for ourselves, we prefer to simplify the paperwork, for the sake of a speedy settlement.

Which is precisely how we coped with the mopping up of East Kent.

On January 12th, with the storm damage barely a day old, we set up an emergency claims centre in Canterbury.

Within two working days we had our own team of claims inspectors out and about on the waterways, personally totting up the cost of repairs.

In all, we paid out £115,000 from just one branch, to more than 400 policyholders.

So they could start rebuilding their lives, while others were still getting estimates.

We won't make a drama out of a crisis.

We've been baling people out all over the country, just recently.

Since the start of the thaw the claims have been flooding in by the thousand.

Of course, we're still wading through the paperwork.

But we like to think we're coping quicker than most.

You see, we don't mind getting our feet wet. Even at weekends.

In Cardiff, for example, we opened specially on Sunday.

In Bristol, we've already made interim payments to several hundred policyholders.

In Liverpool, we've authorised our local inspectors in the worst affected areas to settle straightforward claims, on the spot.

That's the story so far. And it's absolutely watertight.

We won't make a drama out of a crisis.



# Four years on, our claim still holds water.



# America role in sea law talks raises suspicion

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Jan 31

President Reagan's announcement that the United States would return to negotiations for a law of the sea treaty has aroused fears that America would seek to amend the draft treaty concerning mining on the ocean floor.

President Reagan, who abruptly suspended American involvement in the eight-year-old negotiations last March, said the United States would seek a greater role in decision-making on deep-sea mining and stronger protection for American mining interests.

Mr James Malone, an Assistant Secretary of State, said America would be seeking influence commensurate with its interests and concerns. He insisted this did not mean a veto over plans for extracting the vast mineral wealth from the ocean floor. But Mr T B Koh, the Singapore president of the law of the sea conference has already said any demand for changes in the draft treaty would be impossible to accommodate.

President Reagan said the United States remained committed to the multilateral treaty. "If working together at the conference we can find ways to fulfil these key objectives, my administration will support ratification by the Senate," he said.

The next session of the 150-nation third conference begins early next month. Most participants had expected that the marathon negotiations would end last year. But the United States sought to ensure that there was sufficient time for the Reagan Administration to review the draft convention.

American officials said the seabed offered a potentially important alternative source of minerals. While current world demand and metals

markets did not justify commercial development, multinational consortiums had invested substantial amounts to develop technology and to prospect.

President Reagan said in his announcement on Friday: "I am announcing today that the United States will return to those negotiations and work with other countries to achieve an acceptable treaty."

President Reagan said that in the negotiations the United States would try to achieve the goal of a treaty that:

- 1 Would not deter development of any deep seabed mineral resources to meet national and world demand;
- 2 Would assure national access to these resources by current and future "qualified entities" to enhance American security of supply, to avoid monopolization of the resources by the operating arm of the multinational international authority, and to promote the economic development of the resources;
- 3 Would provide a decision-making role in the deep seabed regime that fairly reflected and effectively protected the political and economic interest and financial contributions of participating states;
- 4 Would not allow for amendments to come into force without approval of the participating states, including in the United States case the consent of the Senate in Washington;
- 5 Would not set other undesirable precedents for international organizations; and
- 6 Would be likely to receive the consent of the Senate.

The convention should not contain provisions for the mandatory transfer of private technology and participation by and funding for national liberation movements.

## Ghana's holy war

### Rawlings sticks to his guns

From Godfrey Morrison, Accra, Jan 31

Though it is a month now since the military took over, isolated shots and occasional short bursts of automatic fire break the silence of the curfew here almost nightly.

Sometimes soldiers simply fire into the air for no apparent reason. Inevitably, the shots encourage the spread of rumours, which proliferate in the Ghanaian capital, and help to feed the growing uncertainty about the intentions of Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings' regime, and its ability to solve the country's problems.

To some extent, the continuing atmosphere of uneasiness and crisis has been encouraged by Flight Lieutenant Rawlings and his Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC), which toppled the civilian regime of President Hilla Limann on New Year's Eve.

Their rhetoric is shrill — the country has not simply experienced its fifth coup d'état since independence, but is undergoing a "holy war" against corruption, as a part of a "people's revolution" — and some of their actions have been violent.

In the past few days the Government-controlled press has raised the political temperature further by publishing a series of reports suggesting that Britain, the United States, Nigeria, France, Togo and Cameroon are involved in a plot to launch a mercenary invasion, aimed at overthrowing the PNDC and restoring President Limann to power.

Western diplomatic sources regard the campaign as an attempt by the regime to gather support by conjuring up an external threat, and have expressed fears that it could unleash a wave of xenophobia.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings' regime certainly looks in need of all the cement it can get if it is to hold together. Its cohesion is threatened by a number of factors.

The PNDC's power rests ultimately on the armed forces. The coup was by no means bloodless, and involved fighting between army units which, reliable sources

say, probably left about 50 dead. There is clear evidence that junior and middle-ranking officers in many units are now largely ignored, with the real power of command passing to warrant officers, sergeants and other NCOs.

The Government's most enthusiastic civilian supporters are among the students and workers. The National Union of Ghanaian Students (NUGS), however, has already attacked a number of the appointments made by the PNDC to the civilian Government, which is implementing its policies.

As for the workers, their main reason for supporting the PNDC is the hope that it will carry out Flight Lieutenant Rawlings' promise to improve the economic lot of the ordinary Ghanaian.

It is by no means certain that they can do this.

It is on the economic front that the PNDC, like its predecessors, faces its most daunting task. The country is saddled with massive foreign debts, and its main export revenue-earner, cocoa, has been in steady decline for several years.

As for the PNDC's first policy measure, the PNDC has dispatched students to the countryside to help with moving the crop to the ports.

The new Government's "Libyan connexion" has led to much speculation in diplomatic circles here. Within a few days of the coup, a Libyan delegation arrived in Accra, and the PNDC's first foreign policy initiative was to restore diplomatic relations with Tripoli, which had been broken off in November 1980 by President Limann.

Though Flight Lieutenant Rawlings has visited and some of the officers who engineered the coup had received training there, Western sources here doubt that the coup was engineered by Colonel Gaddafi's Government. They also express scepticism at the idea that the Libyans wish, or are able in their present comparatively straitened circumstances, to take the place of Ghana's traditional friends.

# Strasbourg attacks brushed off by Turks

From Our Correspondent Ankara, Jan 31

General Kenan Evren, Turkey's military ruler, today reacted strongly to the Council of Europe's condemnation of his regime but denied Turkey would be withdrawing in protest.

The council's parliamentary assembly passed a resolution attacking military rule and proposing an official inquiry into widespread abuses of human rights in Turkey, but General Evren said today he would not allow such an investigation.

General Evren, in a televised speech, accused certain members of the assembly of showing a total disregard for events which necessitated the army takeover "as explained with unprecedented patience and goodwill to various fact-finding delegations of the council" and closing their eyes to the considerable progress towards the restoration of democracy.

"It is just not possible to explain the attempts to sever Turkey's relations with the Council of Europe, either with the professions of friendship to the Turkish nation, or with the dictates of the council's statutes or with the goodwill to various fact-finding delegations of the council," he said.

"The pressures directed to prevent Turkey from attaining the aims of September 12 [military takeover], or in other words, the adoption of resolutions which constitute a clear intervention in the domestic affairs of the country, can never be accepted by the Turkish nation," he said.

"If some of these governments let their interests in the developments in Turkey assume a nature of intervention in our domestic affairs, no one should doubt that our reaction will be final and resolute," he added.

Political observers here, taking their cue from hints dropped by officials, do not rule out the possibility of Turkey downgrading its diplomatic relations with the Council of Europe.

General Evren said: "Turkey is not a country which will fear the possible consequences of its decision, allow itself to be swayed away from its national aims, and compromise its dignity and sovereignty."

His speech also contained attacks on Greece: "Certain members of the parliamentary assembly were obviously motivated not by concern for democracy, but by the disputes between their countries and Turkey," he said. There was an undeniable link between the attempts to revile Turkey and rising international terrorism.

Turkey's military rulers rejected the charges of widespread torture of political prisoners and detainees. The latest report of Amnesty International holds that at least 70 people have died during detention, mostly while being interrogated, since the coup.

## INDONESIAN CONTRACTS FOR BRITAIN

From David Watts Manila, Jan 31

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, arrived in the Philippines today after a three-day visit to Indonesia at the end of which he announced a credit agreement for the largest package of British goods and services yet exported to Jakarta.

The Export Credit Guarantee Department will put up a total of £125m to finance part of the expansion of Indonesia's oil refinery at Balikpapan in East Kalimantan. Lord Carrington said about 100 British firms would be involved in the project, which will double the refinery's capacity from 200,000 barrels a day. The total cost is estimated at \$1,000m about (£530m).

British officials hope this work will lead to further opportunities for British firms in the expansion of two other Indonesian refineries and the building of a fourth.

There is also optimism that Lord Carrington's visit could bring further contracts for the British Aerospace for the Hawk trainer/ground attack aircraft, which is already operated by the Indonesian Air Force. At least four of their aircraft have been lost in accidents.

Apart from occasional sinus trouble, a good health which allows her to keep up a punishing schedule of work, travel and engagements. At 55 she is a little dumber than she was, the face slightly jowlier, but the skin is still perfect, far more so than it appears on television. She maintains her energy by conserving it; she will rarely be persuaded, for example, to attend evening dinner parties, public or private; she finds them tedious and tiring, and leaves them to her husband.

In private life she plays the role of a wealthy country landowner, which she is, being the nation's most successful racehorse breeder and a world authority on bloodstock. But the aristocracy have their foibles; 11 corgis would be considered mildly eccentric if owned by

Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom, and 16 other realms, head of the Commonwealth, defender of the faith, horse and dog breeder, mother-in-law and grandmother, was not amused when she heard early in 1980 that Juliana, Queen of The Netherlands and cyclist, was abdicating on her seventy-first birthday in favour of her eldest daughter. It is not the sort of thing we are likely to catch Elizabeth II doing.

Thirty years into her reign, the Queen has no reason to step down in favour of her eldest son, and every reason to regard her job as one without benefit of retirement.

Abdication is a word still calculated to send a funeral shiver through "the system" the generic term employed by the Royal Family themselves to refer to their ever-burgeoning clan. Elizabeth II is a monarch with the highest sense of duty, instilled by her father and reinforced by her belief that her father's premature death at 56 was hastened by worry over the wayward Edward who briefly preceded him.

There are other reasons why she should not emulate the bicycling monarchs of northern Europe, whose occasionally casual approach to constitutional monarchy has been known to offend the Queen of England a note of risibility and polite scorn.

After a decade or more of relative public indifference to the institution and the individual, Elizabeth II has finally managed to transcend the lower atmosphere of mere reverence from her subjects into the rarer air of genuine affection. Robert Lacey, author of her Jubilee biography *Majesty*, recalls tramping round publishers in 1974 with his idea for a critical study pitched midway between Crawley and William Hamilton, and being told time after time that there was neither the interest nor the affection to warrant such a book.

Since the Jubilee, the most reliable guide for many years to the public's opinion of their monarch, the Queen's public style has become noticeably more confident and relaxed. Elizabeth Longford, biographer of the Royal House of Windsor, observed: "During the walkabouts, which have done more than anything to engender affection, it is apparent now that there is no objection to the non-royal person starting conversation, and use of 'ma'am' is much less than it used to be."

She does not always look relaxed, but that is more the fault of her features than her mind; and any human being who smiles relentlessly all day long is liable to suffer from lockjaw. At times of late, the royal wedding she looked positively grim, but then she did have weighty thoughts of ceremony and security on her mind. When an over-energetic conductor sent one of the choir stall lampshades flying, her face broke into a smile of little wonder.

Those close to her suggest that her more relaxed pose springs from the current state of her family. Her son is safely married off with an heir on the way, and her sometimes difficult sister seems to have settled into calmer personal waters.

About the Snowdon divorce she was both understanding and astute; Lord Snowdon remains a close friend, and after the Queen had attended the confirmation service for Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, she roused her press secretary at home in the middle of *Match of the Day* to suggest the release of a picture showing she was there. It made all the front pages, and was her subtle and effective way of indicating that the parties to the divorce had been forgiven.

However, the Queen takes her responsibilities at the centre of a very public and therefore highly influential family seriously. And although the Snowdons were treated gently over their divorce, the break-up of a marriage is still seriously frowned upon. The heritage of Mrs Simpson still looms.

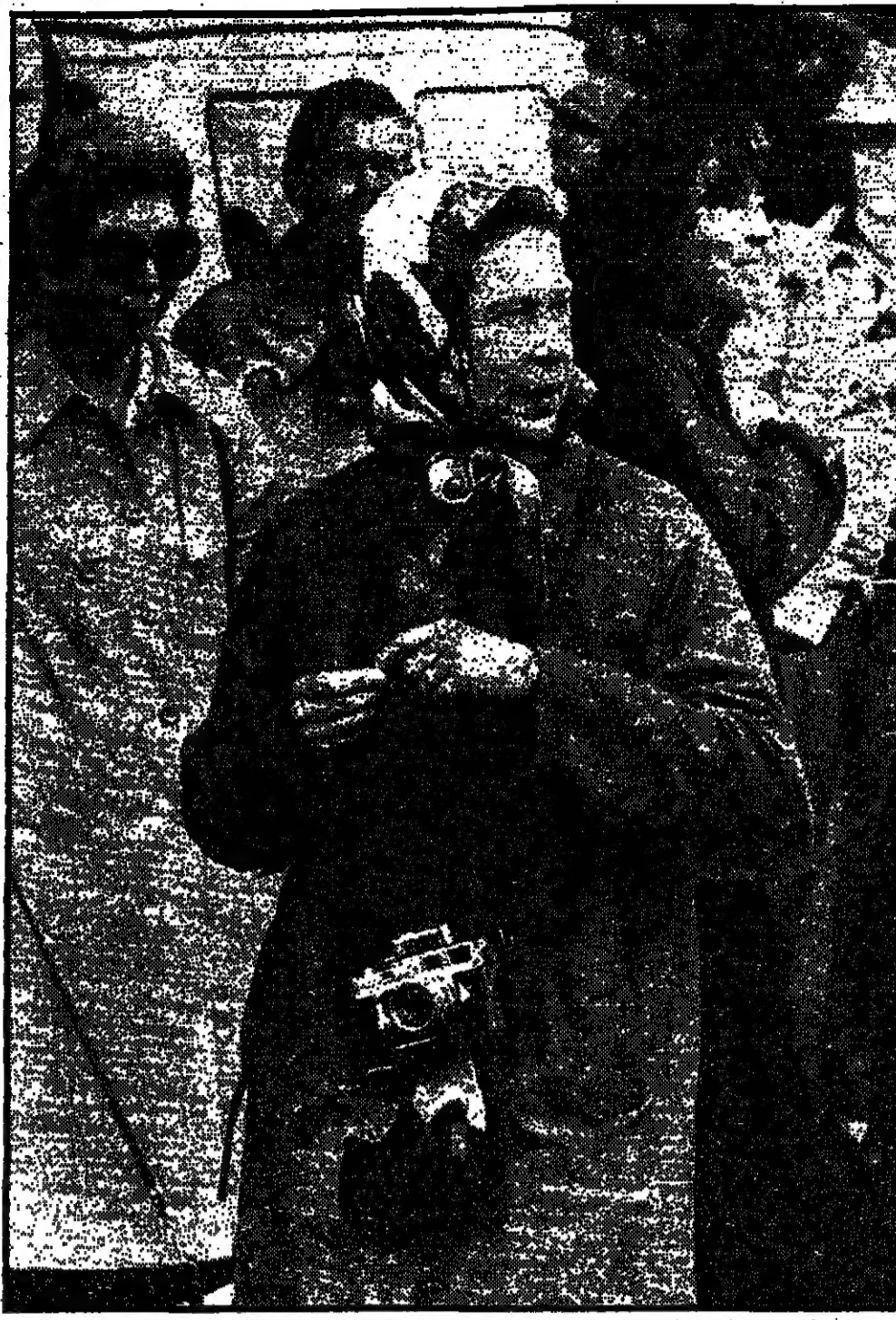
When Lord Harewood, the Queen's cousin, divorced, he was swiftly removed from proximity to the Royal Family at state occasions.

But the Queen's occasional sinus trouble, a good health which allows her to keep up a punishing schedule of work, travel and engagements. At 55 she is a little dumber than she was, the face slightly jowlier, but the skin is still perfect, far more so than it appears on television. She maintains her energy by conserving it; she will rarely be persuaded, for example, to attend evening dinner parties, public or private; she finds them tedious and tiring, and leaves them to her husband.

In private life she plays the role of a wealthy country landowner, which she is, being the nation's most successful racehorse breeder and a world authority on bloodstock. But the aristocracy have their foibles; 11 corgis would be considered mildly eccentric if owned by

## The Times Profile: Elizabeth II

# Thirty years of rule that changed reverence to affection



A greater public accessibility: the Queen at the Royal Windsor Horse Show

anyone else. And if she is rich enough to give her daughter Gatcombe as a wedding present, she ought to be able to afford a new runabout for the Windsor estate. But she prefers to bang on to her ancient green P-registered Vauxhall estate with lino on the floor to prevent the dogs from messing it.

The manufacturers have reportedly tried to present her with one of their later models, at their expense, but she sees no reason to change it; it still goes.

Her relaxed mien must also stem from a knowledge that her position as constitutional monarch is currently held in high esteem. At a time of social unrest, in an age when political leaders of all hues are tarred with the same brush of infatigable mediocrity when the decisions of judges show little understanding of reality, the monarchy is perceived as the only institution of state which is working as it was intended.

Norman St John Stevas, MP, an acute observer of the constitutional monarchy, put it to me thus: "The monarchy has become our only truly popular political institution at a time when the House of Commons has declined in public esteem, and the Lords is a matter of controversy. The monarchy is, in a real sense, underpinning the other two estates of the realm."

In the time of Victoria, a threat to abolish the Lords would have meant that the armies of republicanism were at the very doors of Windsor Castle. The monarchy then was the apex of a social pyramid of which the Lords was the next layer down. Not so now, Elizabeth II has continued the groundwork of her father and mother in making the monarchy curiously classless, despite the fact that its players remain impeccably top-drawer. The trend has been continued by the Princess of Wales, who has shopped in Sainsbury's, an unthinkable act in her mother-in-law's sheltered youth.

The modern style of constitutional monarchy was devised by George V and his private Secretary, Lord Sam-



1952: Opening her first parliament

fordham, and has not changed in its essentials since; certainly the job is more or less exactly what it was in 1952. What does change is how her subjects perceive Elizabeth.

She began her reign to the uncritical adulation of the hopeful postwar years, but by the end of the decade the sympathy began to wear distinctly thin in some quarters. She seemed in many ways an unappealing figure, cold and formal with a silly voice and privileged lifestyle unconnected with most of her subjects. It was not until the 1970s that her style changed noticeably, and then only because of criticisms of only because of criticisms of cost levelled at the monarchy, and her own appeal to Parliament for more money to run the Buck House Show.

Having won a doubling of her annual Civil List to £980,000, with a built-in inflation clause, her well-oiled public relations machine realized that the taxpayer would have to see that he was getting value for his money. It was a powerful spur to make the Queen appear more accessible, more appealing and to let the people see that she actually performed a substantial and valuable job.

The accusations of excessive cost had died down, despite the fact that the inflation clause has quietly raised an annual Civil List to

£4.2m this year, not to mention the other costs of Monarchy, like the Queen's Flight, the Royal Yacht "Britannia" and the Royal palaces, which go through the Commons on various departmental votes and add about £12m to the cost of running the show.

None of it is taxable income, but the Queen does refund to the Treasury £300,000 from the Duchy of Lancaster's revenue and her other considerable private resources. She has, for the moment, won the cash battle, although a major review of the Royal finances is due within the next two years. Mr Hamilton has, in a roundabout way, done his Queen a lot of good.

Elizabeth II is a woman of great political astuteness, which in itself is her best ally against a changing climate beyond the gates of Buckingham Palace. She is on her eighth prime minister, and by her very position knows more than any of them. Her experience is wider than any other head of state alive, and she has an excellent memory. Sir Harold Wilson, caught off-guard at a Tuesday evening audience with a question about plans to build a new town at Milton Keynes, quickly learned the value of doing his homework.

Her relations with her prime ministers have been variable. With Churchill, she talked of racehorses. She got on well with Wilson. She found Heath cold and distant, and she positively relished the company of James Callaghan. They would occasionally emerge from their weekly audience giggling like children, and on summer evenings the audience would consist of a stroll around the palace gardens.

Of her relationship with Wilson, a member of the outer Royal circle remarked: "Funny really; the Royals will often get on famously with a bit of a rum cove. Attraction of opposites, I suppose."

With Mrs Thatcher, the relationship is said to be "more businesslike than warm", the audiences, traditionally of around 30 minutes, now often extend to an hour or an hour and a half, and they have yet to be seen

to emerge giggling. The Queen is tremendously easy to get on with; she is remarkably well-informed, displays a great empathy towards all who come to her, and has a marvellous sense of humour. But Mrs Thatcher is very correct," said one who knows them both.

It is, in a way, a shame that the Queen cannot, by virtue of her position, make more use of her astonishing knowledge of domestic and world politics, accumulated from countless personal contacts and assiduous reading every day of her life of the "business" of state papers that dog her twice a day wherever she goes. She goes through them religiously, unlike Edward, who left them strewn on a bed to be read by his manner of bad eggs in his entourage.

The Queen is well aware that her political acumen may have to be employed rather more in future, if the Social Democrats fulfil their promise to break the two-party mould, and water-fall majorities and hung parliaments become more common. The occasional exercise of the Royal prerogative in the past, notably on Macmillan's retirement and on Heath's efforts to cling to power in 1974, has tended, unfairly, to bring criticism upon the monarch. Since then it can be assumed that a little more political tact and wisdom will have been learnt on both sides.

Her political gifts, however, circumscribed they may be, have also been seen at work in the commonwealth, an institution in which she believes most strongly. Many would claim, indeed, that it is only Elizabeth II who holds it together. During the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in Lusaka, it was the Queen's ability to strike up a warm relationship with Kenneth Kaunda, which finally ensured the progress of the Lancaster House talks on the future in Rhodesia, a feat which Mrs Thatcher alone would not have been able to accomplish.

She will be in Canada again in the summer to sign the reparation of the Canadian constitution. Even French Canadians may line the streets to see her; the French have an insatiable romantic attachment to monarchy, and a Queen over the water prevents an Anglo-Saxon Canadian becoming restless. She also helps to underline to Canada that it is a quite distinct nation from its economically and culturally expansive big brother below the 49th parallel.

What the Queen exhibits more than anything, at home and abroad, is a definite determination that monarchy shall be done, and be seen to be done. She acted with great presence (and no mean horsemanship) when she was fired during the Trooping the Colour ceremony last year. She is determined that this year, the ceremony will proceed as normal. Elizabeth II has no intention of withdrawing the Crown behind the smoked windows of a black Mercedes Benz. She does not like to disappoint.

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Alan Hamilton



THE ARTS

Opera  
Flexible  
charms

Opera 80

Northcott Theatre,  
Exeter

Opera 80 have pulled out a real bag of tricks this time. With Ali Songo as magical consultant, Stephen Lawless has conjured up a solution to the problem of staging the central act of their new production of *Die Fledermaus* perfectly suited to the needs of this small Arts Council touring company, who will play in the small spaces of 16 more provincial venues over the next nine weeks.

Gone is the crowded ballroom a conjurer entertains a sophisticated and nicely detailed dinner party, making dancing girls from under his cloak, fluttering streams of scarves from his hat, his most sinister trick marked with the sign of the bat. Champagne sparkles in a whirl of coloured lights, dancing as in a Hundertwasser painting against the restless patterning of the set.

John Otto's elegantly proportioned 1912 sets (the jail is as pleasing to look at as the curving lines and rosy light of Eisenstein's house) encourage the convincing simplification and scaling down of costume and movement. Complemented by David Parry's vivacious, always discreetly flexible direction of the small orchestra, and witty new lyrics and libretto by Parry and Lawless, the production moves with a strong, seductive momentum that conceals its own art.

Since there is no Frankie Howard to help out with the last act, Michael McLean's lovable night-porter of a Froch bows to the drunken recollections in a delightful dumb-show monologue by Eric Roberts as a strongly projected character, as well as vocally assured and coherently characterized as Stewart Buchanan's suave Falke and Michael Bulman's Eisenstein, though chief honours go to the women: Gillian Sullivan so intelligent and enchanting as Adele that I wish we could have seen more of her, and Catherine McCord as a radiant, versatile Rosalinde.

It is the company's wise policy to exchange principals and chorus between their two productions. Miss McCord surfaced from the chorus of Stewart Trotter's *Figaro* the night before, in which William Mann, two years ago, had hoped she might play the Countess. In a production in which both Marcellina's role and the restless comic business have expanded, and the vocal strength, also, generally diminished, Elizabeth Brice takes on the part as a scarcely credible pantomime dame, epitomizing the shallow investigation of her relationship with the Count, the deaf ear turned to their music. Mozart tells us that she is asking for pardon in a quite different manner from Eisenstein's; but here the audience's laughter drowned even that exquisite moment.

Eric Roberts is less at home in his Count's costume. Delith Brook, a winsome but unsteady project, as Susanna to Neil Jansen's Figaro. Thank goodness for the musicianship and stage sense of Elise Ross, new to the company, whose Cherubino, no less than her beguiling Olofsson, had absorbed the music deeply enough to radiate the part with both sensitivity and aplomb.

Hilary Finch

● The Allegri Quartet is to perform all Beethoven's string quartets in the course of six weekly concerts, every Thursday from February 11, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Monteverdi Choir  
and Orchestra/  
Gardiner

Festival Hall

For Mozart's birthday, John Eliot Gardiner's coupling of the C minor Mass and the *Requiem*, with his Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra, is a coupling, I must aver, not without fear of hubris, that it may have been too much of a good thing.

Between his two greatest, incomplete Masses Mozart's musical thinking altered radically, and of course the music changed likewise. But in both works, as in all his sacred music, he was wearing, so to speak, his church mite. Worthy as he was to put one on, it caused him to compose in a character almost irrelevant to his own musical personality, so rooted are the stylistic premises of his church music in the baroque manner of his predecessors.

If Friday's concert set others thinking afresh about the two works, then the coupling was worthwhile. But neither work seemed to me as pungently interpreted by Gardiner and his colleagues as could be expected from this excellent complex of musicians. They all gave an impression of anxious eagerness, rather than the adrenalin-inspired excitement of performing great music in the Festival Hall.

Both performances were decent. Gardiner made sure that pulses were lively and that double chorus balanced neatly, unoppressively, with orchestra, even in fugues; choral lines were always firm and clear. He omitted the plainsong intonations of the *Requiem*, which they set a section in proper balance; a *Gloria* or *Credo* is like a rickety stool without them.

The soloists were sensibly chosen. Stafford Dean reliable and sensitive on the bass line (he sings too seldom in London), Isabel Buchanan more variable in technique, though musical; Diana Montague and Linda Finnie gave assured, even more the flexible *spinto* sound of the tenor Laurence Dale.

William Mann

Wren Orchestra/  
Thomas

Queen Elizabeth Hall

With her golden flute and her forthright personality, and the election of one of her recent tracks — as Friday's programme-book told us — as signature tune for *Women's Hour*, Elena Duran seemed set fair to be her sex's answer to Jimmy Galtway. In the event, it did not turn out quite like that.

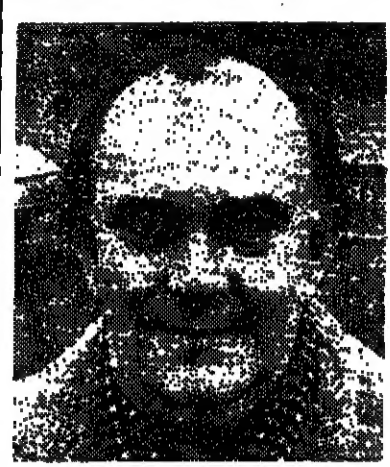
The tradition of the First Night is by no means as loved and respected as many suppose.

Irving Wardle puts the theatre critic's point of view

Opening ceremonies

Last month I had a call from Peter Gill asking me to have another look at his production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. He was not happy about the original reviews, particularly those that bewailed the lack of a POV (Point of View), and said the performance had come on so much that he now considered it the best piece of work he had done at the National Theatre.

As one of those who joined in last August's guarded chorus I accepted the invitation and went to see the show again. In outline it was exactly what I remembered: a clean, well-proportioned reading on a stage as bare as a runway. It did not seem to have gathered much new business (apart from the girls' screaming exit at the arrival of Claudio's wedding party), and Dogberry was still making a meal of his malapropisms. What had changed was the atmosphere. Words like "cool" and "austere" no longer applied. The house had warmed up, and Gill's use of varying stage depths for changes in focus between grand-scale conflict and direct address had taken on the natural rhythm of a breathing lung. It was as if the company were sharing the work with a few friends, indicating its dark side without tearing the comedy apart, and



Alan Ayckbourn: chuckle-count

giving a wonderfully free run to the two principals. I have never enjoyed the play more.

This is not a review. If it were, I would have to explain the enjoyment and maybe end up by qualifying it. But the real question is how far the performance itself has changed, and how much it was originally undervalued as a result of the first night routine. It is often said that reviewers get things wrong because they see work under artificial conditions. As their presence helps to create those conditions, some degree of artificiality is inescapable. But even more artificial is the practice of judging a production on the experience of any single night, the first or the fiftieth.

It has its own life-span, growing and changing with time, and according to a director like Jonathan Miller, the most interesting changes have usually happened before the public arrive. To do full justice to any show, whether a comedy-thriller or an uncut *Hamlet*, would take a book rather than a few hundred words.

As that is not going to happen, there is something to be said for the first night as a moment when rehearsal exercises come together in what Peter Brook calls the Grand Exercise. A production is not an athletic event, but it is to be tested on a single performance you might as well pick one when the company are most likely to be on form. Joan Littlewood, who ignored the existence of first nights, would deny that; and many actors would qualify it. Alec McCowen, for instance, says that first nights are always bad in comedy — "Especially if you've had a good preview. You keep trying to imitate it and listening for the laughs. Not as good as last night, you think, and you start pushing. Like we did in *Tishoo*."

Comedy is often an ordeal for the reviewer as well, sitting stone-faced among ranks of bored teeth and wondering why he is too feeble for the breakfast table should be going down so well with the paying customers. One answer,

of course, is that some of them have not paid. Managements may have given up the old custom of budgeting for paid laughter, but there is still plenty of laughter from people helping their friends along; and reviewers have to decide how much of it is genuine, and how far they should acknowledge an audience reaction that contradicts their own. It takes some arrogance to quibble about the structural imperfections of a show that has had people falling off their seats. Go too far in the other direction, and you join forces with the Broadway statistician whom Alan Ayckbourn saw solemnly listing every titter, chuckle, and deep rich belly laugh, and then adding them all up.

Such examples come mostly from the commercial theatre, to which the first night owes its image of chauffeur-driven cars blocking narrow streets, snatch-photographers on the door and interval voices braying for pre-ordered drinks. It is not as bad as it used to be in the 1950s when getting into the "Haymarket Play" was like gate-crashing Ascot and it usually turned out that the more trivial the entertainment the more stifling the surrounding atmosphere.

Ned Chaillet, the furs and dinner-jackets are less thick on the ground, and the star-worship less hysterical. Toby Rowland, the head of the powerful Stoll group, declares himself in favour of this change. "In the case of a big star, the agents start demanding tickets, which we try to discourage. We want to get the general public in, they're the ones who are going to see the show." Sometimes this is easier said than done. Reviewers form only one fraction of the first night allocation: seats also go out to the company, the producing management, the theatre owner, and with a large-cast musical it can easily happen that the show opens without a single member of the general public in the house.

Until the Arts Council and the GLC acquire the first night habit, subsidized theatres escape this

Theatre

King Lear

Orange Tree,  
Richmond

To spectators unfamiliar with the Orange Tree style, it may seem a bit of cheek to present a work of almost unstageable sublimity on a narrow strip of floor where actors work with the most rudimentary props and costumes, and without even curtains on the windows.

Those who do know the place and the firm aesthetic that has evolved from these spartan conditions will remember its past successes in subduing other large-scale texts to the anti-illusionist rules. And, after Sam Walters' luminous production of *The Good Women of Setzuan* (in which every girl in the company had a turn in playing Shen Te), I took it as a sign that the King cycle at this address.

The sublime, admittedly, is not Mr Walters' zone. He is a narrative director, and most of the devices with which he disciplines huge works to his tiny space are there to indicate what is happening. *Lear*, on these terms, is not such an eccentric choice, as it calls for no elaborate interiors and there are many details in the story that get blotted out by conventional outpourings of tragic passion.

One such detail is that of Gloucester's eyes. We are used to the horrors of the blinding and the succeeding

Oedipal pathos. In this casually dressed version, Gloucester (Geoffrey Beavers) follows his own early line about not needing spectacles by setting Edmund's letter and putting his glasses on to read it. When another document is thrust on him in the Dover scene he says he cannot read "with the case of eyes." The mad Lear, rejecting this feeble excuse, fishes the glasses out of Gloucester's pocket and plants them on his nose.

This kind of logical invention runs through the production, mastering each physical obstacle with effortless simplicity. For the battle, the floor is cleared and there is a single barbaric roar from all round the room. The storm is treated as a ring-around-the-roses routine, with player after player arriving to join hands with the rain-lashed party, and only moving in the transitional spasms between one verse paragraph and the next.

There remains, alas, the little matter of individual performances, which by no means share the virtues of the *mise-en-scène*. There are good performances, such as David Timson's Oswald (a thoroughly objective portrait of an intriguing coward who also happens to be a loyal servant with amiable manners). But there are others that belie the show's honesty by taking refuge behind artificial masks: such as the downgrading of Goneril and Regan into a pair of ugly sisters, and the lamentable doubling of a fearfully spite-

ful Cordelia and a strenuously manic Fool.

Paul Shelley's Lear comes into his own from the onset of madness; but the task of representing senility through a vigorously youthful body in a fisherman's sweater has led him into compulsive smiling, chest-stroking and hammer-tap delivery through which you cannot see the man behind the mannerisms. The general standard of verse speaking is not good.

Irving Wardle

Trojan

Riverside

I would not want to feel responsible for a single person going to see Farrukh Dhondy's new play for the Black Theatre Cooperative. Denying the audience a dignified means of escape, the company decline to have an interval in a performance of nearly two hours in length. Many spectators, having an equal strength of will, took flight regardless, not in anger, not with the slamming of doors, but silently, in abject boredom. Mr Dhondy has achieved that boredom in rare circumstances: establishing that a handful of black workers have seized control of a British nuclear warhead and are holding the country to ransom, he manages to tell the story without creating a moment of tension or even raising curiosity.

There is drama, however, and it comes through the microphone whenever Pauline Black sings. There is excitement, too, in her expression of every vague emotion in the generally lacklustre lyrics supplied by Mr Dhondy. The music itself is another matter, pulsating with expert musician's touch, but it is far apart from the play and, alas, the play is the thing, a contrived, oblique hymn to anarchy; a heavily obscure fable that encourages the downtrodden people of the world to seize power from whatever rulers may be and kill them in the cause of universal justice.

It is a fable set within a fable, with suggestions of a slave rebellion that missed its moment in England's past but which could happen in the future. It is too tediously elaborated to make many spectators care, but at least there is a measure of intelligent performance in Trevor Nunn's production, with Ben Onwukwe and Archie Pool showing some of their acting potential.

The great potential is undoubtedly Miss Black's, for she has a thrilling presence, a good voice and more understanding in her face than appears anywhere in the text. This time the Black Theatre Cooperative have gone badly astray, but anything less would have been a worse disaster. Mr Dhondy has not quite sabotaged their work with his pretensions.

Ned Chaillet

Concerts

It is of course cheering to see a soloist who so obviously loves the music and indeed can hardly bear not to dance through a Mozart rhapsody. She certainly draws a beautiful tone from her flute, and has a top with a real hint of the voluptuous, pure but faintly shimmering; and she plays with vivacity and wit. She falls short in technical accomplishment: almost every stretch of passage-work produced a scramble of notes, unclear articulation and often unsteady rhythm. And her cadenzas, in the *Andante* in C and the *Concerto* in D, showed uncertain taste.

The Wren Orchestra are a capable body and at their best played firmly and neatly, for Ronald Thomas. He first, in this Mozart programme, conducted the *Kleine Nachtmusik*, tidily if with little point or sparkle; a conductor ought surely to convey an awareness of the numerous happy twists in even so familiar a score. Last he did the *Hoffner Serenade*, directing and playing the solo violin, doing the latter with grace and with sweet, silvery tone. He brought due sturdiness to the symphonic opening movement; but too often, and especially when he was soloist as well as director, the music was apt to sound choppy and ill-balanced, and to lack a sense of shape (perhaps this is so difficult to impart while playing the violin that we ought not to set it in music where this kind of

direction was presumed). He was also inclined to hurry it, which can mar the expressiveness of such a movement as the *Andante* in A, though his first oboist found time there to bring out expressive feeling to her solos.

As the evening wore on the orchestra became progressively more careless, and too many entries were missed, tentative or simply wrong.

Stanley Sadie

Jean-Philippe  
Collard

Wigmore Hall

At 34, the French pianist Jean-Philippe Collard has already won international acclaim for his recording of Rachmaninov. Since his recital on Saturday night was part of Wigmore Hall's current Russian series of recitals, it was a programme also including Tchaikovsky as well as Frenchmen understandably close to Mr Collard's heart.

The audience was loath to let him go, and with good reason. Not for a long time can this hall have heard playing of more incisive clarity and control. However complex the web, never was a note obscured. Besides brilliant passages, he played a varied range of colour. He can also command remark-

able reserves of strength with which to complement finesse.

From Rachmaninov he chose just the latest (1931) *Corelli Variations*, and no orchestra could have shaded and contrasted them more vividly than he, with a transparency of texture allowing every detail of the composer's new harmonic cunning to tell. It was a joy to hear characterization at once so subtle and bold. Tchaikovsky's *Dumka* found him no less imaginative in response to texture: here he conveyed the potency of its mood change without the slightest suspicion of a heart worn on the sleeve.

On French soil Mr Collard's crispness of rhythm, no less than of touch, was enjoyable enough in Debussy's *Pour le piano* to silence most doubts (though not at the climax of "Clair de lune") as to whether this music needed quiet such forceful projection. "L'Isle Joyeuse" in its turn was a triumph of exuberant virtuosity. Fauré's C sharp minor Variations, with their fond places at Schumann's, and his incomparable Nocturne in D flat, Op 63, allowed this aristocratic young artist to combine beautifully graded sonority with a more personal strain of poetry. Glowing embers were kindled into flame with an urgency and intensity still wholly liquid in flow.

Joan Chissell



Michael Gambon and Penelope Wilton in Peter Gill's production of "Much Ado About Nothing": a wonderfully free run

kind of scam. At the National Theatre, first-night houses are papered only with the press and people in the building who have worked on the production. Board members and educational representatives get their turn at a guest preview. The Royal Shakespeare Company some years ago began a campaign to deglamorize first nights by cutting down the complimentary list and aiming at the atmosphere of a normal performance in which the actors could show their wares properly. At the Aldwych, this was coupled with a reduction in prices for previews and first nights; and from next month Stratford will be brought into line with this system.

I pass over the possibility that this change may have something to do with last year's audience figures, and move on to another

first night factor no less distracting than the Ayckbourn chuckle-count. I refer to the build-up: the arrival of a show on a tide of advance publicity heralding whatever it is as the Big One and reducing the unveiling ceremony to a mere matter of form. The West End, to give it its due, is less prone to this manoeuvre than the subsidized sector. It was the RSC's Trevor Nunn who supplied last year's biggest commercial build-up with his New London production of *Cats*. And, although that show swept most of my colleagues off their feet, reviewers as a breed generally resist being stampeded, and not least when the rest of Fleet Street has been labouring the significance of some upcoming event.

When it arrives, we are apt to cast our tiny spanner in the

works: sometimes very unfairly, as in the disgraceful dismissal of Nicholas Nickleby ("too long"), said the overnight brigade, while the audience were further prolonging it with a 15-minute curtain call; sometimes justly, I believe, as in the case of the NT's *Oresteia* and the lamentable scramble onto Schnitzler's revolving band-wagon. Fair or unfair, such reactions apply to the publicity as well as the show. Being told what to think creates as much resistance as listening to the deep, rich belly laughs of the theatre owner's party. Given a chance, the reviewer will always pick the role of the little boy in the Emperor's New Clothes, and any manager who values his opinion will leave him alone to watch the parade without the help of couriers or proclamations.

Dance  
Cheerful  
spirits

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden

David Peden, who danced the lead in *Les Patineurs* on Friday, brings an irresistibly cheerful spirit to the part, as well as the springy lightness, speed and crispness which make his many solo entries particularly dazzling. It is a long time, too, since we saw anyone come so close to restoring the original daring of one series of revolving leaps where the skater tries to throw his feet higher than his down-turned head.

Desiree Eyden's smoothly romantic character in white, with Fiona Chadwick and Genesia Rosato prettily neat as the two in red, were the other outstanding members of this new cast. Jennifer Jackson and Rosemary Taylor as the blue girls, who make perky in the trio with Peden, but made heavy going of their solos; perhaps the whole ballet should be handed over to the younger dancers.

There were new young interpreters, also, in *My Brother, My Sister*, Kenneth MacMillan's enigmatic but fascinating portrait of an enclosed family destroying itself. Ashley Page is another dancer distinguished by physical bravado; the way he huris himself about the stage has an apparent recklessness that whips up the tension among the sisters.

Bryony Brind brings an unexpectedly knowing air to the first sister, which makes sense once you see the lascivious relish with which she sets about seducing the brother and picking off her sisters. Ross MacGibbon gives a puzzled, sturdy manner to the outsider, who watches their progression into depravity; Lesley Collier continues to strengthen her portrait of the innocent victim.

John Percival

Television

Credibility gap

You do not have to be Spanish to go along with all that bit about The Poet as bullfighter, victim, clown and Christ, but it helps. You might just be French (Cocote was, and he bought the music package) but anything else and you might have trouble believing a word of it. Lindsay Kemp and Christopher Bruce's *Cruel Garden* (BBC2), therefore, began at some disadvantage, but, from the moment the moon (Michael Ho) slipped over the fence in a circle of brilliant white light and slithered to the bullring floor, it transcended the glubness of its metaphors and sustained a terse dramatic spectacle to the end.

It was marvelously danced by Bruce himself in all the above roles — to which he added, memorably, that of a puppet bride — by Yair Vardi as the bull and other agents of destruction and by H.O., and so well photographed by Nat Crosby and shot by Colin Nears that even unbelievers could overlook all the begged questions posed by an elaborate Deposition and an ambivalent shrug on the Cross.

You do not have to be English to take Stalky & Co (BBC2) — indeed you would probably get more out of it making convenient patterns for a doctoral thesis on The Imperial Ethic at Erlangen or Syracuse, N.Y. "I find it hard to believe," says Angus Wilson in his generally sympathetic study of Kipling, "that the book is not now as dead as Eric, or Little by Little or Tom Brown's School-days, which it was intended to replace," and, if Alexander Baron's adaptation is faithful to the original, it is impossible not to agree: there is something very resistible about that famous "rebellious" charm.

The first episode revolved

almost entirely round which of the two houses was the smellier, King's or Frou's, and Prou's won because Beetle shot a cat by mistake and Stalky put the corpse in the roof above King's dorm: this was construed as a clear moral victory for independence of mind. Nicely enough done — producer Barry Letts, director Rodney Bennett — but sadly unfunny and smug.

Milos Forman on *The South Bank Show* (LWT) spoke well of his early career in Czechoslovakia — extracts from *A Blonde in Love* and *The Fireman's Ball* (it emerged that, after all, the firemen had adored it) came up wonderfully — but less well from *Taking Off* onwards and least well of all, alas, on the imminent *Ratme* time which he seems to have turned into a cross between *Roots* and *Cabin in the Sky*.

In the *Open Door* programme *Protest and Surrender* (BBC2), Schools Against the Bomb uncovered Post-Nuclear Man. His name is Keith Bridge and he works from a bunker on Humberside whence he prepares the few for the worst in the spirit of 1940 and answers the questions of importunate children with a keen, cold stare and the kind of fast fluttering around the eyelids that *Wildlife on One* warns us to watch out for in female baboons. He will be the Controller for the area and spoke in capital letters of Total Control and Powers of Life and Death. Did that sort of power worry him a bit? It did not. Indeed, nobody could watch this bracingly scornful programme without feeling that Humber Bridge could hardly wait for it all to begin.

Michael Ratcliffe

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# After Suslov, how long can hardline ideology survive?

by Michael Binyon in Moscow

The death of Mikhail Suslov, the longest serving and most influential member of the Soviet Politburo, raises two questions of fundamental importance to the future of the Soviet Union. Can and will he be replaced? And who will now play the role of king-maker in the struggle for supreme power in Moscow gets under way?

The icy embodiment of pure Stalinism had glided so long in the political constellation that somehow a future without this gaunt, sinister, puritanical figure seems unimaginable. For though Suslov was 79, his unbending ideological orthodoxy and ceaseless campaign against any reform or deviation gave him an influence that seemed almost immortal: the dedicated conscience of the party would go on and on as his more junior Politburo colleagues passed away.

But Suslov, trained in Stalinist ruthlessness and inspiring the same dread among ordinary Russians as the dictator who appointed him, is dead, and the Soviet party now has no high priest to guide it through the political, economic and ideological challenges facing it at home and abroad.

Could this lead to fundamental changes, a loosening of the dogma, an intellectual liberalization? In the short term it seems unlikely. Some of Suslov's international party functions may be taken over by Mr Boris Ponomarev, a man schooled in similar beliefs, whose real importance may be recognized by promotion to full — instead of candidate — membership of the Politburo. Other senior figures in the propaganda apparatus will take over Suslov's domestic responsibilities for enforcing the party line in education,

the arts and the country's intellectual life.

None will have as much individual authority but all have an interest in maintaining Marxism-Leninism in the mould in which it has developed in Soviet Russia. Today especially, with Soviet youth incited to the west by the denunciation of the Italians and other Eurocommunists and the political crisis in Poland, they cannot afford any lowering of their ideological guard, any questioning of party absolutes.

But in the longer term there must be changes, as a frustrated younger generation of educated technocrats, economists and even party activists recognize. Suslov's departure makes this easier. Voices now calling for a reorganization — though not abandonment — of collective farming, a move towards a market economy, greater material incentives, more consumer goods and perhaps even private enterprise on the



colleagues can expect to survive much longer. No one, not even the 13 members of the Politburo, knows who will follow Brezhnev. Western analysts have suggested various names — Viktor Grishin, the Moscow party boss, Konstantin Chernenko, a close Brezhnev associate, even Yuri Andropov, head of the KGB and security police, but these are only guesses. The most likely scenario, assuming Brezhnev's health has much improved over the past two years, he is now 75 and the next most senior party

Mikhail Suslov: the king-maker is dead and there is no one to take his place

secretary, would take over and continue Brezhnev's policies. But it could be only an interim appointment. Beneath the surface, alliances and understandings are probably already being forged for the second stage of the succession.

This might involve some of the younger, forceful men already in the Politburo such as Grigory Romanov, the Leningrad party secretary, or Mikhail Gorbachev, the energetic outsider brought in to solve the problems of Soviet agriculture. Romanov has a reputation as a good organizer, a pragmatist and a hardliner in his attitudes to the West — all qualities that would stand him in good stead.

Gorbachev is too new to have built up a power base of his own, but if he can bring Soviet agriculture back from the brink of disaster — a Herculean task — he might be able to stake a claim on grounds of sheer competence.

Or the struggle might bring to the fore men whose names are still unfamiliar. And without Suslov's casting vote, there are other forces in Soviet politics that will increasingly influence the decision. One of these is Russian nationalism. There is a growing feeling among ethnic Russians who may be a minority in the Soviet Union by the end of the century that it is "their turn". They look around them and see all the nationalities on the periphery, Estonians, Latvians, Georgians,

## Five in the running when Brezhnev goes



Kirilenko: next in line. Grishin: Moscow party boss. Gorbachev: tackling farm problems. Andropov: head of the KGB. Chernenko: close Brezhnev associate.

Will 1982 see a degree of sanity creep back into air fares?

Sanity means higher fares across the Atlantic, where they have been so low that several carriers are on the point of bankruptcy; it means lower fares in Europe, where they are now so high that many people who would like to fly cannot afford to do so.

Unfortunately the former is more likely than the latter, despite the best efforts of Lord Bethell and the British Government to persuade other European governments and airlines that they are charging too much.

After last week's meeting of IATA airlines in Florida, a 15 per cent rise in Atlantic fares in March, followed by a further 7½ per cent in May, seems virtually certain. The actual rises proposed for March 1 are shown in the accompanying table, and while Atlantic travellers can hardly be expected to welcome them, it is difficult to argue against them. The airlines claim not to have made a profit for 10 years on Atlantic operations; last year, with fuel costs rising and almost 40 per cent of seats empty, they lost £250m.

Higher fares are not expected to have much effect on the number of people crossing the Atlantic this year, which the airlines hope will be at worst static, at best 2 to 3 per cent up. But the deal could still come unstuck. Laker is not a member of IATA and therefore not

## High time to strike an air fares balance

party to the agreement. He is under pressure from the banks to raise fares in line with the IATA agreement; he needs the extra cash as much as anyone, and may be forced to dent his public image and take it. But he has not yet applied to put up fares and, as always, is unpredictable.

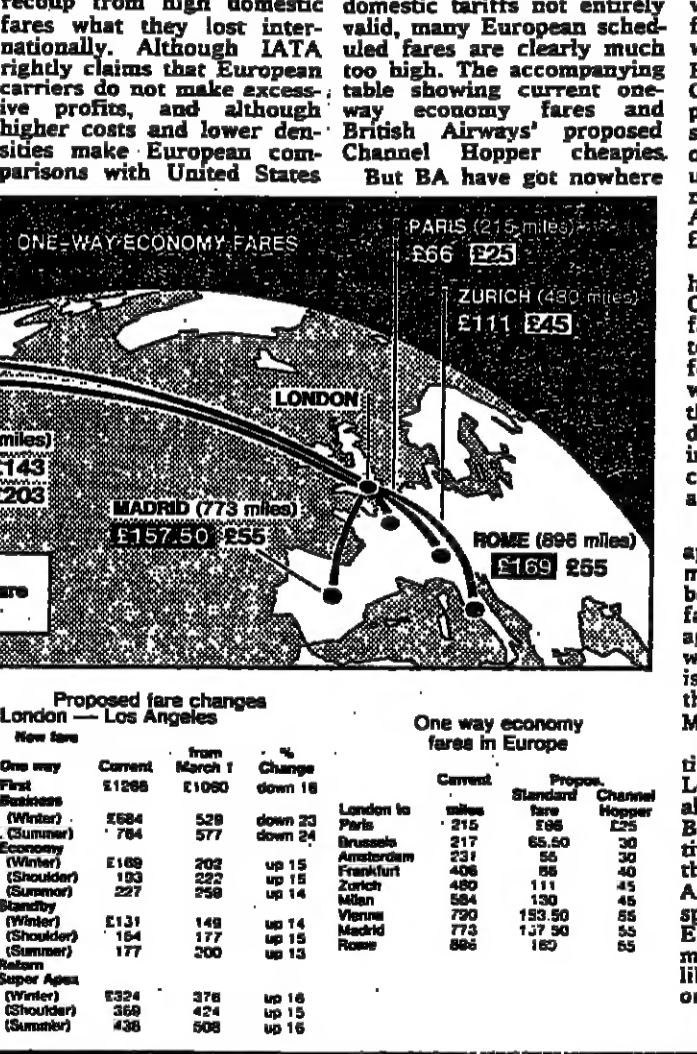
Branniff, also in financial trouble, refused to sign the Florida agreement because it meant he would have to raise his fares, so Texas, its area of influence, is excluded.

While higher fares to Britain, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal and Switzerland were agreed in Florida, those to France, Italy, Spain, Austria and Scandinavia were not. There is said to be nothing sinister about this; a second meeting will be held next month to bring the remainder into line.

Most significant of all, perhaps, is the fact that IATA cannot decide anything; it can only recommend. And even its own members are not bound by its recommendations. So there is nothing to stop Laker cutting fares in March instead of raising them, or to stop British Airways, PanAm and the rest following him down. The protection against this, the airlines declare, is the experience of the past five years.

A spokesman for one said yesterday: "We know there is little joy in a new low fare because others match it and

## recoup from high domestic fares what they lost internationally. Although IATA rightly claims that European carriers do not make excessive profits, and although higher costs and lower densities make European comparisons with United States



## with their Channel Hopper so far, as Laker got nowhere with his proposed cut-price European fares; even British Caledonian, with its more pragmatic approach, has secured agreement so far only to one Miniprix fare at up to 40 per cent below normal. One example: £42 to Amsterdam compared with £55 standard.

Even if Lord Bethell wins his case in the European Court and has the current fare-fixing declared contrary to the Treaty of Rome, the fear is that little or nothing will happen. For the fact is that EEC states can flout the decisions of the court with impunity; only genuine political determination will bring about change.

Even the more limited approach of the EEC Commission — that states should be allowed to set outward fares unilaterally where agreement cannot be reached with the bilateral partner — is thought unlikely to get off the ground at the Council of Ministers.

Yet the drip-drip-drip continues. On a lower key than Lord Bethell's exchanges of all kinds go on all the time. British Airlines' chief executive, Mr Roy Watts, chairs the Association of European Airlines this year — and the spreading realization that European fares are too high must gradually bear fruit, like the customary conclusion on the Atlantic.

# An odyssey in search of Joyce's Dublin



Joyce: the city is his memorial

Poor old Dublin, who loves to turn her children to stone, cannot afford to put up a statue to her literary son, James Joyce, on the occasion of his centenary. They are having a round-the-clock reading of *Ulysses* on the radio instead.

Anyhow he would probably not have cared for the idea of a statue which would convey, The whole city is his memorial, at least those parts of it not gnawed away by time, revolution, neglect and the barbarism of property developers.

Mr Bloom could still take his Lestranganian stroll, recognize much and miss a lot more between O'Connell Street and the National Museum. Graham Leman's sweet shop, where Leopold began his Bloomday peregrination, is now an Old Kentucky restaurant. The Empire bar, where he spotted Bob Doran's bottle shoulders sloping in, is a Berni Inn. Davy Byrne's has had all its character amputated by fitted carpets and Formica; a token of Joyce hangs on the wall.

The Irish treat their cattle better than their pubs. A fashion for bad and outdated modernization has swept away the sumptuous brass and mahogany of all but a handful.

Doran's pub in Molesworth Street, where Bloom thrust a surreptitious hand in his trousers to see if he could tell colour by feel, is now a bright brown brick estate agents with chrome letters. No need to feel them; you can read them at a hundred yards.

Bloom's vision of the Home Rule sun rising over the old Parliament House needs a potent imagination nowadays; the skyline is rudely pierced by the hideous Meccano of the Central Bank, a planning decision tainted with the odour of corruption.

Nor can you sneak into the National Museum and emulate Bloom by peering up the nude sculpture whilst feigning an untied shoelace; they have been discreetly removed to the College of Art.

Yet much remains, not least Trinity College's dull stone set in the ring of the city's ignorance. And did I not see that most Joycean character, R. B. McDowell, emerge from the gate? His lips have not yet heard the news of his retirement, for he still delivers his history lectures to himself as he walks.

And here, its dark brown

## David Irving's computer plans for the far right

David Irving, the right-wing historian and activist, has embarked on a scheme to master the diffuse forces of the political far right by developing a computerized mailing list of sympathizers throughout Britain. He is aiming for up to 300,000 names as a first step towards giving supporters the unified clout wielded by the "new right" in the United States.

I fear, however, that the methods Irving, 43, intends to use to build the list will bring the kind of controversy that has followed him since he started, in 1977, writing appreciatively about Hitler and the Third Reich.

Irving plans a series of advertisements in newspapers and periodicals, including *The Spectator*, in which he will offer cash

## to branch secretaries of right-wing groups for their current mailing lists. More controversially, he claims to have paid £50 to the organizers of a recent rally on behalf of the beleaguered Poles for the ticket stubs on which are recorded names and addresses of about 10,000 people whom Irving hopes will prove sympathetic to his cause. (This has caused not a little alarm within that organization, which denies the claim but "will make inquiries".)

He said yesterday: "The idea of the mailing list is one of the secrets of the success of the right in America. This is an attempt to get sympathizers together because so far there has not been a list of such people — unless the Special Branch has one."

Irving has met resistance also from *Varsity*, the Cambridge University student newspaper, which has declined a £400 full-page advertisement. This follows a controversy over the way *Varsity* reported Irving's recent address to the Cambridge Union in which the historian questioned Hitler's awareness of the extermination of the Jews. The newspaper also refused Irving's request for space to reply to the report. Irving is now muttering about "taking the matter further."

## A new taste

Egon Ronay is anxious to deny that he is stationing a spy in the kitchens of the Ritz, where the hotel's first English maître d'hôtel, Michael Quinn, has boldly announced his intention of pitching for highest gastronomic honours with an all-English menu. The fact is that one of Ronay's ablest inspectors,

## THE TIMES DIARY

Plácido Domingo, the Spanish opera star whose recent *Flower Song* was a popular love ballad (including a duet with pop-singer John Denver) has raised eyebrows in the world of serious music, is about to break into the exciting new field of football songs. I gather that he is to sing El Mundial, the official hymn of the 1982 World Cup, at the grand kick-off this summer.

The song, written by two executives of his own record company, will appear as a Polydor

single featuring a cover portrait of the tenor clad in the red shirt of Spain (I sincerely hope it will not be on sale at the time of the match). Flip side will contain Domingo's rendition of the more conventional Granada — a pity when you consider he has the opportunity to record the definitive You'll Never Walk Alone, or We Are the Champions, or even the charmingly simple We Are the Champions.

But perhaps he will have the chance to sing such a selection when he gives a free open-air concert in Madrid's park to entertain the milling fans and keep them out of mischief.

he is reluctant to recruit chefs as inspectors, "because we are looking for a wider view."

## Jefferson treasure

Edgemont, the Palladian house designed by Thomas Jefferson in Albemarle County, Virginia — and widely considered one of the architectural treasures of the United States — has been sold to an anonymous Frenchman for about £1m.

Eight years before he became his country's third president, Jefferson designed it in 1793 in the style of Andrea Palladio's famous Villa Rotonda at Vicenza in northern Italy.

The house, which has been sold by Sotheby's Realty Corporation in New York, fell on hard times between the World Wars. In 1935 the distinguished American architect Milton Grigg discovered it and its gardens in a state of near ruin. He persuaded a friend to buy it and, from Jefferson's original design, he brought it back to life. He identified in the Coolidge Collection of the Massachusetts History Society, embarked on a full

## Culcha shock

Sir Les Patterson, Australia's cultural attaché in London, should be a happy man today. Years of promoting the virtues of Aussie "culcha" as the Barry Humphries creation pronounced it, seem to have paid off: the first Australian studies centre in the United Kingdom is to open at London University's Institute of Commonwealth Studies in September.

A joint initiative of the Australian government, the institute and the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Trust, the centre will provide a focus for antipodean studies, help Anglo-Australian understanding and perhaps provide seminars for British businessmen seeking trade links Down Under. Lord Carrington,

## Hover doctor

A 20-member expedition team is to help set up a permanent "hovering doctor" service for remote Amazon headwaters along the Apurimac River in Peru this summer.

Two specially built British lightweight Hovercraft which can travel over terrain impassable to conventional craft will be handed over by the team to the Amazon Trust, linking existing 120 miles of the Apurimac River area. A third Hovercraft will be given to the Regions Beyond Missionary Union for medical use on the Ucayali River.

Heading the volunteer team, which will explore the Amazon headwaters and navigate further towards the source of the great river than has previously been possible, will be Squadron Leader Michael Cole R.A.F. who led the successful Joint Services Hovercraft Expedition to Nepal in 1978/79.

The expedition's Isle of Wight-produced "River Rover" Hovercraft is a bolt-together construction of aluminium and wood.

## Michael Horsnell





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## MR REAGAN IN PERSON

One of the side effects of the Polish crisis has been to demonstrate the lack of understanding and confidence within the western alliance. This has come about partly because the United States and a number of its European partners, especially West Germany, made conflicting interpretations of events in Poland. It can be attributed partly to the confusion that exists in Washington over the making of foreign policy under the present administration because Mr Haig neither has the authority to make policy on his own nor sufficiently good relations with his colleagues to cooperate happily in making policy jointly. He becomes too easily obsessed with questions of jurisdiction.

But there is another, deeper weakness in the alliance that has been highlighted by the Polish tragedy: there is insufficient trust in American leadership. There is nothing new in this. For years it has been evident that the alliance can thrive only when there is confidence in strong American leadership, and under successive Presidents it has been evident that this confidence has been missing. Sometimes their policies have repelled European opinion,

but there has been a more personal factor as well. Not since the death of John Kennedy has an American President spoken to Europe in terms to which Europe has responded.

If confidence in the United States is to be restored in Europe it will require an exercise of personal leadership. It is therefore excellent news that President Reagan is to visit Europe in June. He came to office with one great advantage and one particular liability. He has a greater capacity than any President since Kennedy to speak in tones that can be appreciated beyond the shores of the United States. But he brought with him a reputation as a primitive extremist that is particularly distressing to European opinion. The reputation is unfair. It owed something, no doubt, to our failure to look at acts rather than rhetoric, something to liberal stereotyping. But it is a political fact which the President and his advisers must take into account.

The best way for Mr Reagan to make the most of his asset and the least of his liability is for him to be seen in person. That was precisely the tactic he employed to

such effect in his election campaign. He destroyed the myth of the wild man, sedulously fostered by the Carter camp, by his appearance in the television debate with Mr Carter. How could anyone believe that the more relaxed and friendly candidate could be a threat to world peace?

He needs to employ the same gift now in his dealings with Europe. The more he remains a remote figure in the White House the more it will be the Reagan caricature who is thought by European opinion to be the President of the United States. The more he talks with allied leaders — as he will be doing in the summit meetings in Europe — the better chance there will be of bridging the gap in understanding and devising a joint western approach, not just to Poland but also to the broader challenges of the 1980s. Yet even that will not be enough. If he is to reverse the dangerous tide of anti-American sentiment in western Europe he should take every opportunity to speak directly to the people on this side of the Atlantic. It is what he is best fitted to do and what they most need to hear.

## FREEING TRAVEL FROM MONOPOLY

The business, commerce and political unity of Europe requires easy and economical travel. It does not have it in the air. The contrast with the United States is striking; competitive air travel has shrunk the continent so that the Boston publisher thinks nothing of popping down to Houston for the biography of an oilman. But Europe, which is supposed to be drawing closer together, is being driven apart by the national pride in flying the flag. It is this which underlies the excessive cost of flying on scheduled services: the British businessman thinks three times before adding to his costs with a £300-plus air trip to Madrid.

The British Government, happily for once fulfilling its competitive instincts, is trying to do something about reducing European air fares. It is not encouraged by British Airways which is dragging its feet, but it has in the private person of Lord Bethell a spear-carrier of exemplary courage. It is his persistence against a weight of political and bureaucratic inertia that would have made Kafka wilt that has put the issue firmly on the agenda. This week he is expected personally to see Sabena, the Belgian air line, in the English county courts. He claims that they overcharge him by about £50 each time he flies to Brussels, contrary to EEC law.

There are those who hold that Lord Bethell is reducing what is essentially a political and commercial argument to a narrowly legalistic one and that his actions are therefore unhelpful. He himself believes on the contrary that commercial and political pressure have failed so singly

over the years to crack the European price fixing that the sharp needle of legal denunciation is the only way of producing a response. He deserves support for trying. As the article on the opposite page shows, it is possible to fly from London to destinations in North America more cheaply than to Europe. This is so partly because certain costs are higher in Europe (but need they be?) and because the traffic is less dense; but it is also because if an outside airline seeks to introduce a new low fare on a national route the national airline will swiftly have the fare prohibited by its government. Lord Bethell and the British Government argue that this is contrary to the interests of the consumer and contrary to the Treaty of Rome which requires free competition within the Common Market. That is why he is also suing the European Commission, goading it to act as watchdog.

It would be cavalier to dismiss the opposition by the monopoly state carriers in Europe as narrow self-interest. The President of Air France, M. Pierre Giraudet, argued in his Presidential address to IATA last autumn that free competition could not optimize the market. Weightier issues of freedom and order come into it. Air transport, he argued, is part of the nation's activity that no country can do without. No nation could rely on a foreign company driven only by the profit motive for its exchange with the rest of the world. Some company will always be found, he argued, to provide tariffs which only cover variable costs so as to fill planes. Its national competitor and others would then be forced

into a race away from profitability: "an infernal cycle is set in motion, taking all companies to their ruin".

The flaw in the argument, from the European and the consumer's point of view, is its insistence on the survival of national airlines. That is contrary to the spirit of the Common Market and the Treaty of Rome. In the United States free competition rules within a true common market and fares are a half to a third of those in Europe. There are no individual states preventing competition on behalf of a favourite son.

Last year more than a million Britons saw something of America, an astonishing and welcome increase in our travel. We should have comparative ease in visiting Europe. As an island the British depend more on air and should be able to travel without the hindrance of monopoly charges.

Britain's air transport industry, despite the troubles of British Airways and Laker, is probably the most competitive after America's. British Airways' alliance with the state monopoly carriers is therefore disappointing: it is understandable that the others should be more frightened of competition. But the conflict could and should be resolved by the formulation of a positive and distinctively European policy for air transport. In its absence the interests of the consumers are being blatantly over-ridden. Lord Bethell is right to pursue the EEC Commission through the courts and the Government should be delighted to play full guy in Lord Bethell's suit.

## David Wood

### A job making European reputations

The appointment as rapporteur of the European Parliament's budget committee of Robert Jackson, Conservative MEP for Upper Thames, is agreeable to record for more than one reason. On one level, it is good to see a former *Times* writer proving that he has far more than the gift of the gab and an aura of All Souls that hangs like incense over his desk and his presence. On another level, if the United Kingdom could not win the Strasbourg presidency at the first time of asking, then this rapporteurship must be reckoned the next best thing.

It is a demanding post that has made several European reputations since 1976. In the old nominated Parliament first Michael Shaw, Westminster MP for Scarborough, and then Lord Bruce of Donnington, as budget rapporteurs became much bigger men than their colleagues had taken them to be; and as we know, Pieter Dankert, the Dutch socialist, who took over from Bruce in the 1979 directly elected Parliament, made the leap from the rapporteurship to the presidency this year.

So far, so good. Yet it must be admitted that Strasbourg's budget committee, particularly the chairman and rapporteur, increasingly find themselves caught in a crossfire. The European Parliament, both when nominated and now it is directly elected, has constantly demanded a bigger say in how Community money should be spent. Because it cannot raise

money, in effect it can put up spending only within the limits set by the domestic governments of the Ten, who have good political reasons back home for keeping expenditure strictly under their own control and tune with their own electoral imperatives.

It was extraordinary that the constituent governments of the EEC should ever have conceded the right of Parliament to any voice at all in the Community budget. They did, though reluctantly. In 1970 the budgetary provisions of the treaties were amended, and the Council of Ministers itself asked the Commission to submit proposals on the Parliament's budgetary powers. Two years later nothing had happened.

Georges Spenale, the French socialist, persuaded the Parliament to use the ultimate deterrent of a censure motion against the Commission. That motion was withdrawn only on the understanding that proposals would be forthcoming. In January 1975, new budgetary rules began to operate, and seven months later Parliament was given power to reject the Community budget — to this day its one substantial gain over the bureaucracy.

Nevertheless, it is still a power better ignored than used. Parliament's president has to sign the annual budget into operation, and more than once there have been delays. But only once has the Parliament rejected a budget — stock and barrel. That was the 1980 draft budget, with the able German trade unionist Erwin Lange as chairman of the budget committee and Peter Dankert as rapporteur. The budget did not pass until July. Meanwhile the Community lived on the short commons of 1979 — not least the Parliament itself.

The point is that the Parliament wants to increase community spending, especially on domestic, social and regional policies, and unlike the govern-

ments of the Ten it wants to break through the one per cent ceiling on VAT receipts; and to reject the budget means limiting next year's budget to the same level as this year's. Therefore, it is a self-defeating operation. The only source of new revenue for the Parliament, which now exercises control over roughly a third of the Community budget, is to reduce spending on the common agricultural policy, which has been the case since the early days of the Six as obligatory. Now it is certain that CAP cuts would carry in a Parliament where the farming vote is electorally sensitive.

Here will lie Robert Jackson's problem. One of his first preoccupations as rapporteur will be the decision of the Council of Foreign Ministers to take the European Parliament to the Luxembourg Court because Mme Veil signed the 1982 budget into operation after Parliament had increased expenditure without Council approval. Meanwhile, throughout the Community the farmers, and politicians who need their votes, have begun the fight for much bigger increases in CAP expenditure for 1982 than the Commission has proposed. Christopher Tugendhat, the Budget Commissioner, will soon be banging his head against the one per cent VAT ceiling, which at least half the governments of the Ten say must be as unchangeable as the Ten Commandments.

Robert Jackson said yesterday that the British Government and the European Parliament are taking the same road: "Both want a more cost-effective CAP and to expand the non-agricultural policies from which Britain benefits." I suspect that a few years ago, writing for *The Times*, he would have built in more qualifications, and a milder measure of politicians' licence. If only politicians would confess that every solution to a problem creates a new problem.

## Roosevelt and the use of power

From Mr P. F. Breakell

Sir, Mr Henry Fairlie's sharp insight into American affairs makes it the more surprising that his January 20 "Is Reagan a Roosevelt?" should be so wide of the mark.

In making this strange comparison he omits the vital factor — power and the national will to exercise it.

Were there 11 or 13 million unemployed in America between the start of the New Deal and the last war? Certainly there were many. Roosevelt dredged great power and comparative unity out of a national awareness of disaster to which he boldly and credibly claimed the only solution.

President Reagan has no such launching pad. American power and the willingness to use it have drastically declined in the affluent nuclear "peace" of the past 35 years. Caution, à la Carter, is all. Risk is not to be considered. How many will volunteer under that sort of banner? Nevertheless he tries hard for revival. He may be too late but I cannot believe that he does not deserve support.

Mr Fairlie overworks that fashionable word "compassion". Compassion, expressed in a sort of vacuum, is not only condescending but also ineffectual. Surely no president can go about demonstrating compassion as if he were a bishop. However, he may be able to provide it in material terms if he can arouse some sense of purpose in many of those who need and deserve it.

Mr Fairlie writes about "dispirited Americanism" here with the names of Mrs Thatcher and Mr Disraeli added for some emphasis that escapes me. It seems to me simply that our power is now greatly reduced and that pride in refusing to recognise this reality is hobbling us.

Regarding the absurdity of Mr Heath's tirade in Johannesburg Wind of Change speech. Very soon afterwards his old South African comrades in arms captured a great cache of Russian arms complete with Soviet operators. They found the contrast between moralistic waffle and the exercise of power for survival quite shocking.

Our forbears used to be much better at using small power for great purposes.

Yours faithfully,  
P. F. BREAKELL,  
11 Fitzroy Square, W1.

## 'New deal' for Britain

From Mr Richard Wainwright, M.P. for Colne Valley, (Liberal) and Mr Harry Cowie

Sir, We welcome Christopher Johnson's article, "Why Britain needs a New Deal" (January 20), which makes a powerful case for a substantial increase in public sector investment, especially housing, roads, water services and social infrastructure. Liberals have recently published a pamphlet, *A Chance to Act*, outlining a similar programme calling for £1,500m extra in these sectors, which we estimate would create around 450,000 jobs, mainly in private manufacturing, particularly the depressed construction industry. It would be necessary to ensure that small companies get their fair share of subcontracting, by government laying down a minimum of 20 per cent of purchasing to come from that sector.

There is also a strong case for investing heavily in advanced technology, both of the kind and the regions which have the highest unemployment rates. We see information technology as a challenge and a threat. It could reverse the trend of the last 50 years towards mass-production factories and huge outflows.

The scope for the application of micro-computers is considerable, not least in the welfare services, which still operate punch-card systems. But it will only be effective when there is a national network of System X exchanges linked by optic fibre cables permitting small teams to plug into national data banks.

To this end, large companies must be encouraged to have off existing departments (and especially new projects) to their own employees, giving them a bigger say and a profit participation in their own companies. That means, for example, typing pools will be encouraged

## Positive discrimination

From Michael Malone

Sir, Mr Werdnauer (January 25) refers repeatedly to the need to remove discriminatory practices as being the justification for positive discrimination. It seems to me that he does not appreciate the distinction between indirect discrimination and positive discrimination.

We already have laws against indirect racial and sex discrimination, laws which are designed to eliminate unjustifiable employment and other practices which have developed quite innocently but which have the effect of penalising or handicapping racial minorities or women (or sometimes men).

Positive discrimination, which happily is lawful only to a very limited extent, is a very different animal. It is a blunt instrument which, on the basis of crude statistics, not only works injustice against individuals but also strikes at the whole moral basis of the laws against discrimination.

Without such moral basis these laws will be left based only on expediency and as such can never hope to command the full assent and support of our society.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MALONE,  
22 Higher Dunscur,  
Bolton,  
Lancashire,  
January 27.

## Validity of orders

From Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC

Sir, Mr Gerard Noel writes (January 23) that it would surely be more "honour and dignified" (whatever that may mean) for the Roman Catholic Church to abandon its Secularist stance. I hope that his letter will not be taken as the heretic's voice of the Roman Catholic Church.

To some Allied soldiers nearly forty years ago and today to millions of Poles, the value of the minuscule Vatican City State has been demonstrated in war and in uneasy peace. But above all, to many of us, it is wholly desirable that the head of the Church with such a massive worldwide membership should be able to preach and write and pray in a state independent in international law of all other secular dominions.

Yours faithfully,  
RAWLINSON,  
12 King's Bench Walk,  
Temple, EC4,  
January 25.

## Conviction

From Mr Tom O'Carroll

Sir, I do not in the least object to your diarist's reference to me (Jan 21) as a successful author, but for him to say I am serving a sentence for "sexual offences" is another matter. I have one conviction only, which is for "conspiracy to corrupt public morals". This offence, which was concerned solely with a publication, did not involve me, or anyone else, in any sexual conduct, legal or otherwise.

Yours faithfully,  
TOM O'CARROLL,  
HM Prison,  
Headfield Road,  
Wandsworth SW18.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### When fuel supplies are disconnected

From the Chairman of the London Electricity Consultative Council

Sir, Early this month, the gas and electricity industries will give the Government their responses to the recommendations in the report, *Fuel Debts and Hardship*, published by the Policy Studies Institute last November.

This study was sponsored in 1978 by the industries, as well as the Electricity Consumers Council and the National Gas Consumers Council, under the guidance of the Department of Energy. It set out to discover whether the fuel boards' code of practice provides fair and effective safeguards against disconnection in cases of hardship. The review took nearly three years to complete, and it was very thorough.

The PSI found that the voluntary code of practice has not worked properly, and gives inadequate protection to those most vulnerable in their dealings with the fuel boards. It recommended a wide range of improvements, most of which will be incorporated in a statutory code — the statutory watchdog for London electricity consumers — has supported in its own submission to the Government.

Overall, the PSI's proposals will cut out most of the opportunities for abuse of the existing code by those who can afford to pay, leaving a system designed to deal automatically with the great majority of hardship cases, without resort to disconnection. This is what the industries, and every other interested party, including the government, claim to want.

Regrettably, the main reaction by the industries so far has been to "play up" the cost implications of the PSI's report. The Electricity Council, for example, has claimed that PSI's recommendations will cost £51 million a year at current prices. It asserts these figures, but has been most reluctant to disclose to the Electricity Consumers Council the full basis for its calculations of the specific assumptions used. Apparently, the gas industry has exaggerated even higher costs. All these figures should be ignored as bureaucratic propaganda until the industries can substantiate them, and show that they have allowed for the offsetting financial benefits that PSI can bring.

Meanwhile, I hope the Government will note the recent enactment by New York State of the Home Energy Fair Practices Act. This imposes on the gas and electricity utilities a statutory disconnection code. It is more rigorous on some key points than anything we will get by voluntary agreement here, and more far reaching than many of the PSI's proposals. Surely our public monopolies — allegedly the embodiment of people's power — should be held to account at least as firmly as their private counterparts in capitalist USA?

Yours faithfully,  
ALEX HENNEY,  
London Electricity Consultative Council,  
4 Broad Street Place,  
Blomfield Street, EC2.

### Establishing new long distance paths

From the Secretary of the Ramblers Association

Sir, The Countryside Commission has just announced that the Cambrian Way long distance path, from Cardiff to Conwy, is not to be designated. The negative attitude of a number of Welsh local authorities has caused the commission to abandon the project.

There are several lessons to be drawn from this unfortunate decision. May I refer to two of them?

In the first place, the Cambrian Way saga has demonstrated the inadequacy of procedures for establishing new long distance paths. Although the commission is responsible for the designation of the paths and for paying 100% grant towards their maintenance, they have no actual powers to create the necessary rights of way. They have to rely entirely on the co-operation of local authorities along the route, and sometimes this is not forthcoming. In addition, the routes can only be created on a piecemeal basis, with separate orders and public inquiries being needed for each individual stretch of new path. Although the commission have indicated their desire for a more streamlined procedure, and although we promoted a suitable amendment during the passage of the Wildlife and Countryside Bill, that opportunity was not taken up and the old procedures still remain.

A more important lesson concerns the role of the commission itself. The abandonment of the Cambrian Way has been offered as an example of the commission's switch in priority from recreation to conservation. The commission should tread very warily along this path. Already it is becoming heavily involved in the field of wildlife conservation, which is more properly the preserve of the Nature Conservancy Council.

At the same time it is closing regional offices and is handing over the administration of the Regional Councils for Sport and Recreation to the Sports Council. If these trends continue, people will come to question whether there is a need for the commission as a separate body at all. We would make this a tragedy because in our view the commission has a unique role as an organisation that can promote the national interests of informal recreation in the countryside. In pursuing this role, one of the commission's few executive powers is the designation and promotion of long distance paths. Following the decision on the Cambrian Way, the Commission should now demonstrate that this is a power which it intends to continue making good use of.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN MATTINGLY, Secretary,  
The Ramblers Association,  
15 Wandsworth Road, SW8,  
January 28.

So far the Conservative Government has blocked these imaginative schemes on monetary considerations, whereas we believe that pension-fund managers would welcome an opportunity to invest in a wider range of private and public instruments including indexed bonds issued by regional agencies backed by North Sea oil revenue.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WAINWRIGHT,  
HARRY COWIE,  
Chairman,  
Liberal Party Treasury Affairs Panel,  
The Liberal Party Organisation,  
Whitehall Place, S.W.1,  
January 20.

## 'Police' series

From Mr Roger Graef

Sir, As you are a newspaper of record, may I put straight the circumstances under which the *Police* series originated (article, Monday, January 25).

The idea emerged from John Shearer, Head of General Programmes Unit, BBC Bristol, and Philip Daly, Head of the Bristol Network Production Centre, early in 1979. They approached the Association of Chief Police Officers for general approval of the series in the summer of 1979. I was engaged as executive producer/director in November 1979. The team was then built that would make the series, including Charles Stewart as co-director/cameraman, and Amanda Theunissen, assistant producer and Glen Davis, researcher. We devoted the next few months to learning about a variety of police forces and their willingness to receive us openly. By April 1980 we settled on Thames Valley Police.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER GRAEF,  
BBC Bristol,  
Broadcasting House,  
Whiteladies Road,  
Bristol.

## Shingles and shakes

From Mr M. W. Inman

Sir, Fifty years ago I climbed trembling on the steeply pitched ladders to the spire of Ewhurst Church in Surrey, having just delivered 17,000 cleft oak shingles for its re-covering.

May I correct Mr, Peter Stedman (Letters January 26) for calling them "oak shingles" which means something very different in the home-grown timber trade and applies to the imported sawn article.

For well over a hundred years the firm founded by my great-grandfather produced many thousands of cleft oak shingles which were a by-product from the cleaving of larger items such as pales, spokes and barrel staves.

It is good to know that shingles are now being specially cleft more easily from chestnut and spruce.

Yours faithfully,  
M. W. INMAN,  
7 Southover High Street,  
Lewes, Sussex,  
January 28.

## Driving ambition

From Mr John Parker

Sir, I wonder how many schoolboys now wish to be engine drivers when they grow up.

Yours truly,  
JOHN PARKER,  
The Sycamores,  
Devisdale Road,  
Bowden,  
Cheshire,  
January 28.

to become "offices of the future".

The threat is that if we do not seize the opportunities, the only "sunrise" industries will remain in Japan and California. To avoid this we require radical change in our approach to youth training and education, which implies an increase also in current expenditure. Finally, if private industry is going to be able to tool up for an investment-led recovery there is a case for employment subsidies, at least initially, until the investment programme comes through into order books.

The total gross outlay we estimate would be £3bn (1981 prices) spread over three years, providing a million jobs at a net cost to the PSBR (public sector borrowing requirement) of £3bn. Much of the national finance could be provided from North Sea oil revenue. There may be considerable scope for financing various regional projects as well as an information technology network from private institutional investment. We have in mind performance related bonds, such as Buzby bonds, and project finance, for example, the recent Tarmac initiative to raise private debt finance capital to promote the completion of the M42.

So far the Conservative Government has blocked these imaginative schemes on monetary considerations, whereas we believe that pension-fund managers would welcome an opportunity to invest in a wider range of private and public instruments including indexed bonds issued by regional agencies backed by North Sea oil revenue.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WAINWRIGHT,  
HARRY COWIE,  
Chairman,  
Liberal Party Treasury Affairs Panel,  
The Liberal Party Organisation,  
Whitehall Place, S.W.1,  
January 20.

currently undiagnosed, who could be detected by screening. The tests are simple and cheap: either a urine test or a blood sugar test.

Blindness and foot disease (leading to infection, gangrene and amputation) are well-known complications of diabetes. Both these conditions can be alleviated, or even prevented, by early diagnosis and treatment.

Surely this is one of the most effective and cheapest forms of health screening with real benefits.

Yours faithfully,  
P. J. WATKINS, Chairman,  
Medical Advisory Committee,  
British Diabetic Association,  
10 Queen Anne Street, W1,  
January 27.

to the British Museum and received an acknowledgment addressed to Knjiga Druga, Esq., which in the Serbian language means Volume Two, Esq.

I beg to remain, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
K. ST. PAULOWITCH,  
Selwyn College,  
Cambridge,  
January 27.

From the Venerable C. G. Hooper

Sir, A letter received by me from Holland was addressed to: "Mr Van Arch Beacon."

A luminary, I like to think.

Yours faithfully,  
C. G. HOOPER,  
Archdeacon of Ipswich,  
East Green Cottage,  
Kelsdale,  
Saxmundham, Suffolk,  
January 20.

From Mr Christopher Pearson

Sir, When I worked years ago for the late Lord Brough a letter arrived for "The County Survivor". Forewarned, we drew lots for the privilege of accepting it, and speculated on the fate of the people of Surrey.

But then the penny dropped, and the letter went on to her Ladyship.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER PEARSON,  
How Park,  
Kings Somborne,  
Hampshire,  
January 26.

From Mr K. St. Paulowitch

Sir, I was during the last war Principal Private Secretary to the Yugoslav Prime Minister. One morning, in 1942, a messenger from the War Office came and handed me an official letter addressed to the Czechoslovak Liaison Officer to the Yugoslav Government.

In 1956, when the second volume of my five volume biography of a Yugoslav statesman was published, I sent a copy

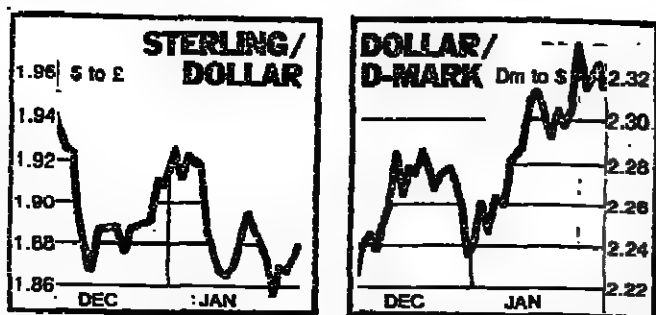






## BUSINESS NEWS

### Spotlight on dollar



The dollar will be watched closely this week. European leaders are pressing for a cut in American interest rates which could cause it to weaken. But the disappointing money supplies figures limit the Federal Reserve Board's freedom to bring rates down.

### CBI in Market campaign

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, today inaugurates a CBI campaign for Britain to remain within the EEC with a warning that the jobs of 2.5 million workers in British companies depend on the United Kingdom's continued membership. He said that hundreds of thousands of these would be jeopardized by pulling out.

### Oil cut urged on Saudis

Pressure in Saudi Arabia to cut oil production and support falling prices mounted as Ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, yesterday. But Dr Mana Said al-Otaiba, the United Arab Emirates oil minister and president of Opec, said he did not expect an Opec meeting before that set for Quito, Ecuador, in May.

### Warning on reflation

A warning that an increase in the money supply of as little as 1 per cent a year could eliminate the British balance of payments surplus has been given by Phillips & Drew, the stockbrokers, in their February economic forecasts.

The firm also expects no average real growth in gross national product between 1983 and 1985. Indeed, after achieving growth this year and in 1983, gnp could contract by 1.5 per cent in 1985.

Inflation is not expected to fall below 10 per cent a year for any significant period between now and the middle of the decade.

### Easing tension

Japan has now formally adapted a series of measures to boost imports and soothe growing tensions with the West over trade. Mr John Biffen, the Secretary of State for Trade, who is today starting a three-day official visit to Japan will use the opportunity to encourage increased foreign investment in Japan.

### Export talks

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development opens two weeks of commodity talks in Geneva today to help third world countries improve export earnings by processing their raw materials, such as refining sugar or canning vegetables. Until now, Uctad has concentrated on stabilizing prices for raw materials through buffer stocks and international agreements.

### Scanner advance

M & D Technology has been set up in Scotland to design and manufacture Nuclear Magnetic Resonance scanners for medical use.

The £400,000 instruments represent a big advance in the screening and diagnosis of cancer. They can give doctors not only an image of organs in the body but also an idea of the biochemical processes taking place.

Prutech, Prudential Assurance's high technology investment arm, is the main shareholder with a 35 per cent stake.

## Industry renews fuel bills offensive

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Britain's energy-intensive industries are to step up demands on the Government to cut their fuel bills.

Anger over Whitehall's failure to reduce the disparity between prices paid for gas and electricity by some United Kingdom industries, including chemicals, steel, paper and board, compared with their European rivals, has been simmering since last autumn. It is now set to erupt again.

The second report published last November showed that in the case of most fuels the gap had closed. Even so, the UK's biggest power users were still paying up to 16 per cent more for electricity than in West Germany and up to 28 per cent more than in France.

The steel industry, which last year paid out £520m for gas, electricity and fuel oil, is spearheading the latest offensive. Steelmakers claim that change rate movements in the period since the last task force report have opened up the disparities once more and, worse still, British gas — at present at loggerheads with Mr Nigel Lawson, Sec-

retary of State for Energy, over the Government's privatization plans — is demanding quarterly increases of 1p a therm, on renewal of firm gas contracts.

This move is regarded by the British Steel Corporation and by independent steel producers as a reversion to the gas corporation's unrealistic pricing policy following the Government-imposed freeze on renewal prices made in the 1981 Budget.

They also see the quarterly increase clause as conflicting with the gas corporation's pledge to apply increases "taking account of market conditions".

Through the NEDC the Iron & Steel Sector Working Party is urging both Mr Lawson and Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, to act swiftly and implement a coherent and positive response against a background of the volume of evidence provided by the task force.

BSC, which claims that its total energy cost disadvantage, compared with its European competitors, is equivalent to an additional £3 on every tonne of liquid steel produced, is supporting representations to ministers by the British Independent Steel Producers Association.

Hopes for cutting the industry's £260m a year electricity bill centre on the review of the Bulk Supply Tariff carried out by the electricity supply industry which is now being studied by Mr Lawson. Indications are that any concessions will fall well short of what companies believe is necessary to make them competitive with European steelmakers.

The electricity supply industry is suggesting a modification of its category C load management system implemented a year ago. This provided industrial customers with additional discounts in return for much shorter notice of supply reductions. It appears that the electricity industry is prepared to offer large industrial customers fewer supply reductions and longer notice of them.

The effect would be to reduce by about 5 per cent the price rises which the electricity industry will be introducing for all customers in the spring, and involving increases of about ten per cent.

The steelmakers have told Mr Lawson that they want to be involved in discussion of any changes to the load management structure and tariffs before any decisions are taken.

### Heron in new move to stop ACC bid

By Gareth David

Mr Gerald Ronson of Heron Corporation is making another attempt to persuade the small number of voting shareholders of Associated Communications Corporation to reject the £36m bid by Mr Robert Holmes & Court, the Australian financier, and open the way to further suitors.

Heron says in a letter addressed to the shareholders, which they will receive today from Barclays Merchant Bank, Heron's advisers that Mr Holmes & Court undertook to free ACC directors from accepting his offer in the event of a preferable one.

In summing up at the High Court hearing which turned down Mr Ronson's attempt to stop the Holmes & Court offer, Mr Justice Vinelott ordered an extraordinary meeting of ACC voting shareholders to be held to consider the bid.

Mr Holmes & Court has received commitments from directors representing 63.6 per cent of ACC voting shares and in qualifying his undertaking to waive these commitments effectively reserved the right to decide what constituted a better offer.

This move by Barclays on behalf of Mr Ronson comes on the day Heron is due to go to the Appeal Court to overturn Friday's High Court Ruling that stopped his £46.5m bid for ACC, which was £10m more than the value of Mr Holmes & Court's Bell Group offer.

At Thursday's hearing, Mr Justice Vinelott referred to the ACC's financial position and noted that a sale of assets or long-term borrowings was needed to meet the company's obligations. "It seems to me wholly understandable that directors in that position could not afford to call Mr Holmes & Court's bluff without possible damaging consequences", he said.

### TUC urges campaign to draw foreign investors

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The TUC will urge the Government this week to introduce new measures to attract foreign investors to the United Kingdom in a major bid to increase industrial competitiveness and reduce unemployment.

A paper to be delivered by the TUC to Wednesday's National Economic Development Council will argue that the abolition of exchange controls has led to a big rise in the United Kingdom portfolio investments abroad, with a subsequent damaging impact on the domestic economy.

The meeting is to be chaired by Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and it is likely that industry and union leaders will take the opportunity to widen the debate into a general discussion on the economy, the state of industry and unemployment.

It is to take place just 24 hours after the publication of the Confederation of British Industry's latest quarterly trends survey which is expected to confirm employers' view that a modest recovery in the United Kingdom industrial output this year.

The CBI's last monthly trends survey, issued a few days before Christmas, showed that 65 per cent of manufacturing companies expected their production volumes to remain at their present depressed levels at least until the end of April.

Wednesday's meeting also comes in the wake of the numerous Budget submissions that have now been sent to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Many of those from industrial organizations call for investment incentives, particularly for small firms, and a lessening of constraints such as the National Insurance surcharge.

The CBI's budget recommendations, expected next week, are also expected to urge a reduction in the surcharge which, it believes, could create up to 200,000 jobs. The employers' organization will also call for a £2,000m

### Cable TV report completed

By Bill Johnstone

A Cabinet Office advisory committee has just completed a report favouring relaxation of the present constraints on cable television. The study, prepared by the Committee on Information Technology, takes account of submissions by the National Economic Development Office, Department of Industry, Home Office and interested parties in the television industry.

The report, which is to be published within the next month, is expected to precipitate a statement on the subject by the government about the middle of this year, designated Information Technology Year.

There are seven operators in the United Kingdom who have been allowed to take part in a two-year cable television experiment in more than a dozen locations around Britain in order to gauge the public's response to such a service. They are Rediffusion, Visionaire Cable, Philips Cable, British Telecom, Radio Rentals, Greenwick Cablevision and Cablevision of Wellingborough.

The patent on the PAL colour television system, held by Telefunken of Germany — which prevented the foreign manufacture of colour television sets over 20 inches — will expire in 1983.

Many in the consumer electronics industry who submitted evidence to the Committee on information technology have claimed that a government initiative relaxing the constraints would give a much-needed boost to the British manufacturing industry. Others who have submitted evidence have gone further by suggesting that the use of British equipment in these cable television networks should be a condition for an operating licence.

Two other independent studies on cable television are to start soon. One is by CIT Research, which is also investigating the export potential of System X for the Government and another is by the Broadcast Research Unit.

At the moment there are fewer than two million homes in the United Kingdom wired for cable.



London Metal Exchange: heavy buying of tin.

### Malaysia confirms talks on tin cartel

By Michael Prest

A close association between Malaysia and buyers who have pushed up the price of tin by more than £2,000 a tonne has been confirmed by sources in Kuala Lumpur.

Moreover, Datuk Musa Hitam, Malaysian deputy prime minister, said over the weekend that Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia had been discussing setting up a tin cartel. Bolivia may also join the arrangement.

For the last six months, the London and Penang tin markets have been thrown into disarray by heavy buying, first of tin futures and most recently of spot tin. The purchasers are estimated to have spent £250m acquiring 50,000 tonnes of the metal. The London cash price of tin was £7,882.50 a tonne on Friday.

Sources in Kuala Lumpur say that the vehicle for the buying is a private company called Mamincio. This is an acronym for the Malaysian Mining Corporation, the country's main tin mining company which is government-controlled. Both companies have Mr Abdul Rahim Aki as chairman, and executives are believed to have been seconded from MMC to Mamincio.

It is understood that Mamincio has been allowed to take part in a two-year cable television experiment in more than a dozen locations around Britain in order to gauge the public's response to such a service. They are Rediffusion, Visionaire Cable, Philips Cable, British Telecom, Radio Rentals, Greenwick Cablevision and Cablevision of Wellingborough.

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### Union set to test law in Croda bid

By Our Financial Staff

The Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, Mr Clive Jenkins's white collar union, has intervened in Burmah Oil's bitterly contested takeover bid for Croda International in a move which could have far-reaching implications.

The union believes its move under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981, which becomes law today, represents a big step in the development of industrial democracy.

The new regulations required that in the case of a takeover such as this an employer must consult with employees over possible redundancies. The union has 6,000 members at Croda, many in senior management, is demanding to know Burmah's plans.

Sir Alanair Down, chairman of Burmah, and Sir Freddie Wood, chairman of Croda, will today receive letters drawing their attention to the new legislation.

If the union does not get a satisfactory response, it will take its case to the Employment Appeal Tribunal of the High Court. Meanwhile, if Burmah manages to acquire 100 per cent of Croda, the union said that it would consider an injunction to prevent the deal.

"The whole ball-game of takeover battles will now be different", Mr Roger Lyons, national organiser of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said.

Institutional investors should not regard themselves as free agents in a takeover battle. The union would not take kindly to any institution supporting a bid without all the details.

He denied the allegation made by Mr Lyons that Burmah had a poor track record and dismissed the union's reference to the supposedly planned disposal of its Quinton Hazell subsidiary. The car spares company was bought by Burmah about 10 years ago for about £57m and may now be sold for about half this amount.

Quinton Hazell was acquired after a tough battle and employs more than 7,000 people, but as profits have tumbled Burmah is said to have decided that it now lies outside its long term plans. But Burmah denied that jobs were at stake and said Quinton Hazell would continue to have the Burmah's support.

Oil is Malaysia's biggest earner of foreign exchange, but tin remains important. Malaysia is the world's largest tin producer, accounting for some 60 million tonnes out of world production of less than 200 million tonnes. Thailand and Indonesia produce about 30,000 tonnes each and Bolivia around 27,000. The industrial recession has caused demand for tin to decline, and production surplus of 20,000 tonnes over consumption is expected. Market sources calculate that prices would be £2,000 a tonne less without the support operation.

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At the moment there are fewer than two million homes in the United Kingdom wired for cable.

### Compensation argument reopens

By Ronald Pullen

The argument over the terms offered to Britain's aircraft and shipbuilding groups nationalized by the last Labour Government will be reopened in the next few weeks.

The European Community is now having to thrash out the delicate question of whether or not the compensation offered to companies was fair when the Labour Government decided to take the aircraft manufacturing and shipbuilding industries away from the private sector.

Last year several groups, including shipbuilders Yarrow and Vosper Thornycroft, Scott Lithgow, Vickers and GEC decided to press their claim for unfair treatment in the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The British Government was asked for its "objec-

tions" on the claim several months ago. It had been hoped to give a reply to the Commission by the end of January but because of the complicated and difficult issues involved, as the Government claimed in the House of Commons last December, this has been delayed.

The Department of Industry is still preparing its reply but it should be lodged with the Commission within the next few weeks.

Despite its statements while in Opposition that the compensation terms were grossly unfair, the Conservative Government has argued that it cannot now consider retrospective legislation.

All the groups involved have accepted some compensation — GEC and Vickers shared £95m for their stake in BAC, Yarrow accepted £5m for its shipbuilding activities. Vickers took £14.5m for its shipbuilding interests.

But in accepting the terms, they gave warning to the Government that the 1977 Aircraft and Shipbuilding Act had undervalued the worth of their lost assets.

For the time being the petition is being heard by the European Commission which will report to the Council of Ministers. The final arbiter, if either side does not accept the Commission's mediation, will be the European Court of Human Rights.

### Call for concerted attack on inflation

It has become "imperative" for industrial nations to break loose from the economic stagnation that has become a "poison to the world economy", according to Jacques de Larosiere, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said, however, that the industrial nations experiencing high inflation, sluggish economic growth and rising unemployment cannot solve these problems by putting the fight against inflation in second place to job-creating measures and other actions.

"Any let-up in the fight against inflation would mean throwing away the progress that has been made so far in dealing with it," Mr de Larosiere said.

"To boost demand before inflation has been beaten and supply conditions have been improved can only drive the roots of stagflation deeper," he added.

This appraisal of the world situation and what the industrial countries, in particular, need to do to break what he called the "stranglehold" of economic stagnation was contained in a speech at the European Management Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

The IMF chief also urged industrial nations to increase their international cooperation in dealing with economic problems.

Interest rates, are set by the monetary and fiscal policies of the major industrial countries and "an improved mix of policies that would permit a fall of even one percentage point" in Eurocurrency market rates could result in a saving of \$2,000m in the external debt service costs paid by the non-oil developing nations.

"More generally the development prospects of so many countries in the Third World critically depend upon the success of the industrial countries in achieving economic adjustment, while keeping their markets open and thereby laying the basis for a strong and sustainable recovery of world trade."

While the developing countries also must undertake "sound" economic adjustments, he stressed that the industrial countries must not ignore the "international dimensions" when they frame their own economic policies.

### Leading UK role in \$250m network

## Satellites will link world's ships

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

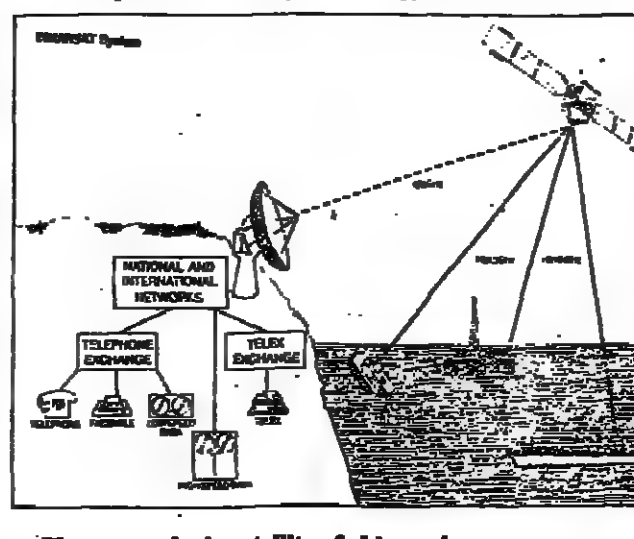
A \$250m satellite communications system comes into operation today which will provide fast, interference-free telephone, telex and data service to and from ships around the world.

Britain will play a major role in the International Maritime Satellite Organization, known as Inmarsat, whose headquarters is in a new 21 storey tower in Vauxhall, south London.

British Telecom has invested about £13m in the system, the largest share after the United States and Soviet Union.

British Aerospace was the prime contractor for two of three main satellites, which Inmarsat will lease from the European Space Agency.

The first, Marecs B will be put into orbit over the Pacific in the spring. The Indian Ocean will be served by circuits leased on one of the Intelsat-V satellites later this year.



The new path via satellite of ship-to-shore messages

limited satellite communications for ships since 1976. Marchesa Maria Christina Marconi, widow of the wireless inventor sent the message from the Isle of Wight to the American liner St Paul in 1899, will inaugurate Inmarsat today. She will be sending a welcome telex from London to the thousand ships equipped for satellite communications.

Radio communications have been possible for ships

for 82 years but they were expensive and unreliable before it became possible to bounce transmissions off a satellite without fading and interference.

The world's merchant fleet consists of 70,000 ships over 100 tons, Mr Olaf Lundberg, director general of Inmarsat, said, so the potential for growth of mobile satellite communications was enormous. The number of vessels equipped with the one-meter dish antenna necessary to transmit and receive satellite communications is expected to exceed 5,000 by 1990.

A chain of coastal stations will collect ship-bound messages from the national and international telecommunications networks and beam them, as microwave signals, to the appropriate satellite. Signals from the satellites will be also relayed by the stations destinations on shore.

Four stations are operating in the United States and Japan.

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Improvement hopes

##### LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 579.8  
FT Gilt 85  
FT All-share 330.93  
Bargains 20,560  
(Friday's close)

Rationalization has cost Bess International £5.5m so far this year.

But third quarter results due on Tuesday should show that the group is well on the way to improving on last year's £50.4m pre-tax, with analysts expecting between £76m and £80m, for the year to March.

At the half way stage pre-tax profits of £38m on £11m on the previous year and would have been higher but for increased interest charges and the weakness of sterling against the dollar, the currency in which newspaper is priced.

The IPC magazine business was the main contributor to profits at mid-year, after strike losses the previous year.

Besides an improvement in the publishing divisions, Reed's decorative products division is returning to profit and could

contribute around £10m to full year profits. There should be a reasonable increase in dividend for the year to around 20p, against 18.6p.

Electronics has been a glamorous sector in the recent past but has lost some of its gloss and half-year figures of Unitech due on Tuesday will bear this out and are likely to be below last year's £2.5m at the half-year.

Mr Peter Curry, chairman, gave warning last September that profits for the half year would be down, but said that the year as a whole should be similar to the previous year when taxable profits amounted to £4.3m.

Depressed United Kingdom markets have been matched by a similar situation in both France and Germany, particularly the latter, where intense competition has led to the newly acquired subsidiary Enatechwerk.

Dividend for the year should be held at 10p and with the shares at 227p yielding a mere 4.4 per cent.

Hillards the York stores group, proved what increased market share could achieve when pre-tax profits leapt 72 per cent in the year to May.

##### INSURANCE

The Lloyd's Bill reaches a critical stage on Wednesday at its third reading in the House of Commons with Conservative backbenchers still opposed to the so-called "immunity clause" and threatening a filibuster unless Lloyd's agrees to compromise.

The "immunity" clause would give a new ruling council protection from being sued for damages by members of Lloyd's and the Lloyd's committee has made clear that it sees the clause as vital if it is to regulate the market property in the future.

Last Friday, Mr Malcolm Pearson, a Lloyd's broker who has been lobbying against the immunity clause, met Lloyd's chairman Mr Peter Green to try to come to some understanding. But Mr Pearson would only say after the meeting: "We didn't agree but I would still be hopeful that we can."

It is, however, doubtful whether Lloyd's will step down, and if the Bill does not go through on Wednesday, it could fall through lack of parliamentary time.

Mr Peter Miller, the Lloyd's committee member who has been responsible for steering the Bill through, said the immunity clause had been closely examined at the committee stage of the Bill and Lloyd's had already refined it by proposing an amendment overriding immunity in the case of clerical error. He said it was not possible to compromise now.

But Mr Archibald Hamilton, Conservative MP for Epsom and Ewell who has taken a close interest in the Bill and opposed immunity said that he found Lloyd's attitude quite extraordinary.

The Bill is due for debate between 7 and 10 o'clock and a large number of amendments are being tabled. Mr Hamilton said: "I think it will get talked out unless some compromise is made."

##### BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY: Interims — Electronic Machine, Hillards, R H Morley, Regional Properties, Howard Shuttling, extured Jersey, Warrick, Holidex (8 months) Whitworth Electrical.

Finals — Kellcock Trust. TOMORROW: Interims — Cowan De Groot, Gold Fields of South Africa, Reed (9 months), Unitech, Zenith.

Finals — IDC, Prestige. WEDNESDAY: Interims — Wickes Securities, Mid Wynd Trust, Munton Bros, Steinberg.

Finals — Western Selection, Westminster Properties. THURSDAY: Interims — Kinta Kelas Rubber, Malaysia Rubber, Sentint, Storhill.

Finals — Blundell-Permglaize, Lonsdale Universal Scottish Agricultural.

FRIDAY: Interims — Burt Boulton, Capital Reserve Fund, Burt Mill, English Associated, M L Holdings, Portsmouth and Sunderland News (9 months).

Finals — Associated Fisheries, Glasgow Stockholders Trust.

##### DIARY

Today: Select committee discusses Budgetary reform. Tomorrow: CBI industrial trends survey for January; United Kingdom official reserves for January; Capital issues and redemptions for January.

Wednesday: Advance energy statistics for December; Commons discusses Lloyd's Bill.

Thursday: Public sector borrowing requirement and details of local authority borrowing for fourth quarter.

Friday: Housing starts and completions for December.

Companies reporting their results this week include Electronic Machine, Hillards, Regional Properties, Cowan De Groot, Gold Fields of South Africa, Reed and Unitech, Westminster Properties, Stonehill, Sentrust, Blundell-Permglaize, Burt Boulton and Associated Fisheries.







## BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

● Welcome aboard Inter-City People, now standing in column one. Today and each Monday from now, this new column will call at people and places which for the moment you can't be sure of getting a train to, to see for yourself.....

### INTER-CITY PEOPLE

#### CUMBRIA

#### Survival of the fittest

When Nick Steven left the Army as a captain and a half year ago he used his supply to set up Survival Aids, a manufacturer and supplier of survival equipment and rations at Moreland, near Penrith. Steven says that Survival Aids has survived the last two months of snow, rail strikes and business collapse without recourse to any of the emergency lighting, heating or eating in the Aids catalogue.

He was snowed in and without power in his home three miles away up on Sharp Fell and had to walk to work. Luckily, the power stayed on at the Aids plant (there were 42 degrees of frost outside), most of the workers live in the Aids itself, and most roads were sent by road rather than rail.

"My own biggest survival aid," he told me "is a first class computerized accounts and management information system."

Half of the mail order survival kits go to British soldiers who Steven says, have to buy their own, because survival aids may only be issued to special units.

#### SWINDON

#### Kerbside manner



Dr Jeffrey Cullis

Jeffrey Cullis is giving a new meaning to the phrase "spare part surgery" with a new project called Endeavour Industries.

Dr Cullis, a Swindon general practitioner, is extending his practice to include the treatment of clapped out BL Minis to provide training and jobs for the disabled.

"I looked around for ideas which would involve raw materials that were not in demand, and which could result in a finished product for sale. I saw heaps of old cars lying around, and thought why not try the recycling business."

Endeavour Industries will provide work for four disabled people at first, supervised by three instructors. Premises have been offered locally, start-up cash is being raised by a trust fund and people are already offering Minis which have failed the MOT.

● Potholing is something which neither Hampshire or Herefordshire. However, John Campbell, who recently retired as consultant in Italy and settled in Leominster, is running a business of his own, Potholes Culling (Hereford), licensing the name from Tony Bayles's Alton, Hampshire firm of Potholes International. This sells to licensees a quick-hardening substance called Potholing for repairing roads, car-parks and concrete floors.

#### BIRMINGHAM

#### Light fantastic

Rachel Waterhouse, who succeeds Christopher Zealley as chairman of the Consumers' Association, says she only joined the consumer movement because "terrible things always seemed to happen to me."

Mrs Waterhouse's present Christmas card from husband John, a director of a cancer research unit at Birmingham University, was a light meter.

When pointed at a dazzling snow drift, the meter suggested that the correct exposure with high-speed film would be about an hour. "They replaced it pretty promptly," says the Consumers' Association chairperson.

Ross Davies

### NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Otto Norland, chairman of Alcoa of Great Britain has been elected president of the Aluminium Federation for 1982. Mr Norland has served on the Federation's Council and International Relations Committee since 1979, and was vice president in 1981. The vice president of the Aluminium Federation for 1982 will be Mr Gerald Howard, managing director of HWA Forgings.

Mr Alan Wilkinson has been appointed as managing director of G & M Power Plant.

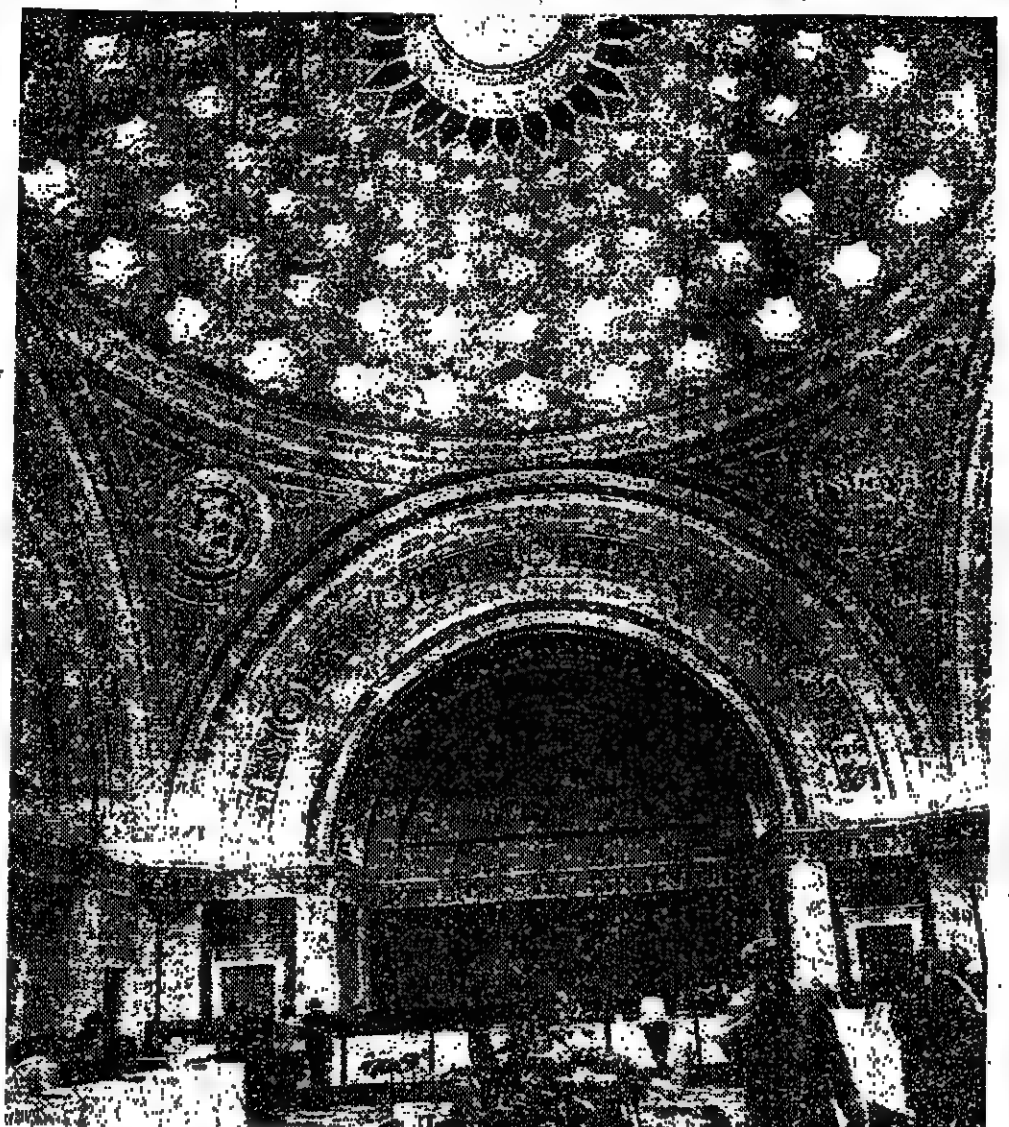
Mr John Miller, chairman and managing director of URM Merchants has been appointed a non-executive director of A. J. Gooding Group.

# Big challenges ahead for Britain's banks

● Kevin Page examines new sources of competition for the clearers and assesses how they will be able to cope with them.

UK MARKET SHARES HELD BY FOREIGN BANKS	
Loans to manufacturing industry in sterling	22%
Other loans to productive industries	9.0%
Loans in sterling to hire purchase, leasing and property companies	31%
Loans to service industries	20.9%
Loans to persons	4.9%
Loans for house purchases	9.1%
Consumer credit loans	3.2%
Share of total UK banking market	17.6%

Source: Financial Statistics May-November 1981.



The Royal Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh — a temple to British banking confidence. But did the Monopolies Commission's veto on two bids for the company necessarily herald an embargo on foreign intervention in British banking?

are now pressing the Treasury for net tax relief on mortgages.

Additionally, the banks are mounting a campaign to win more depositors from the building societies, which account for 38 per cent of all deposits within financial institutions. There will be more savings schemes, extensively advertised.

Third, all the clearers now have their consumer credit subsidiaries in place following Lloyds' topping up its interest in London and Scottish to 60.7 per cent in March last year. Consumer finance provides cream when more traditional banking profits are on a downswing, but there is intense competition from the Americans. Citibank employs 2,300 in Britain and has 41 branches attempting

to attract not only loan business but savers' deposits. Fourth, while it is fair to assume the major expansion in America is now over, there are still opportunities to buy small or medium-sized banks in Europe, particularly in West Germany, Holland and Switzerland. More branches will be opened in key international centres with export finance probably the most lucrative growth area.

However, while the London-based banks face these challenges together, the fifth British clearer, the Royal Bank of Scotland, is preoccupied with special problems following the blocking of the proposed merger with Standard Chartered. The RBS board is now studying its contingency plans and it is

thought it has broadly five possible options.

RBS might look to a medium-sized bank in America in its desire for an international presence. An agreed bid at the right price for a bank in Texas, would reduce dependence on an over-banked home-base and build up a solid dollar deposit base. Corporate finance facilities for Texans who want to invest in the North Sea would be an added bonus.

A merger with Grindlays Bank is the subject of much speculation. Grindlays is a smaller version of Standard Chartered, although the sale of the Dao Hong bank in Hongkong for £70m earlier this month, makes it less attractive to a bidder, except, ironically to Standard Char-

tered and Hongkong and Shanghai.

But despite large losses in Uganda, unknown debt provisions on lending to Zaire and Poland and unquantified ex losses, Grindlays is the largest foreign bank in India and a force in both the Middle East and black Africa. A merger with RBS would give it the British deposit base which is lacking, uniquely among international banks.

Insiders predict the future of Grindlays, owned jointly by Lloyds and Citibank, will be clarified after years of uncertainty, following the publication of the 1981 report in March.

The third possible route for RBS would be Europe, perhaps by the purchase of a small Dutch or German bank, or alternatively through opening offices in major cities.

However this course might lack the sex appeal after the collapse of the Standard Chartered dream. A fourth option entails RBS concentrating upon the expansion of the English partner, Williams and Glyn's which has 2.7 per cent of the British retail market. This course would be deeply ironic since the Monopolies Commission report stressed the Scottish factor as the main reason for vetoing both bids for RBS.

But the report did note that the Scottish arm held 20 per cent of its deposits in London and with W & G contributing just over half of group profits, expansion south of the border was probably inevitable.

Lastly, and also ironic, there is speculation about a merger between RBS and the Bank of Scotland. This would create an undoubted monopoly of banking in Scotland since a combined group would account for around 80 per cent of Scottish deposits. A merger would also be strongly opposed by the very independently-minded Bank of Scotland. But such a deal would create a strong Scottish banking force which the Monopolies Commission report said would be weakened by RBS merging with either Standard Chartered or the Hongkong bank.

Any deal struck by RBS would almost certainly be preceded by the sale of its 39.3 per cent stake in Lloyds.

There is also conjecture that Grindlays might be sold to RBS as part of a deal by which Citibank buys Williams and Glyn's. Although the stock market enjoys this kind of rumour from time to time, the Governor's victory over the Hongkong bank makes it very unlikely.

So the key to the next five years in British banking appears to be increasing competition, with the building societies and government savings schemes, which foreign banks and with each other. The hope is that without the stimulus which would have been given to the industry had either Hongkong and Shanghai or Standard Chartered been allowed to buy RBS Group, there will be sufficient competition for savings, deposits and long-term loans to manufacturing industry, to create a more efficient and sophisticated financial base which is ready to fund economic expansion.

### Business Editor

## Markets look for higher ground

Optimism is infectious on occasions, and it certainly seemed to be last week. The City's hard-liners had little trouble carrying the "wets" with them in Thursday's consultation over Budget strategy, presumably on the grounds that the economy is starting to look a little rosier each day. And the City's sharp upward flip on Wall Street on Thursday immediately sent the FT 30 share index climbing to within three per cent of last spring's all-time high.

Through January as a whole the FT index rose by almost a tenth. So the question now is whether there is enough momentum to carry it through any immediate recession, and allow it to break significantly on to higher ground.

The City would certainly love to think that it is within a matter of weeks of getting into a new ball game with the index in the low 600s, and on past experience such quantum leaps tend to happen rather faster than one expects.

Certainly, the London equity market has a number of powerful influences running in its favour at the moment. The authorities would dearly love to see domestic interest rates progressively reduced; the outlook for corporate profits, both this year and next, is bright; rights issues are flowing thick and fast but the prospect becomes rather less daunting if one assumes that most fund managers have now completed their major overseas buying spree; and the political background, though still far from secure as far as City interests go, looks rather less fearsome than six months ago.



Mr Paul Volcker, US Federal Reserve chairman: soothing words

That said, the yield on equities is already down to around five and a half per cent, while high coupon long dated gilt-edged returns are approaching 15 1/2 per cent. The piece of string that ties the two together is, of course, reasonably elastic, and even a small change in market perception as to the appropriate size of the reverse yield gap can carry dramatic implications for the capital values of shares.

Last summer the string was suddenly perceived to have stretched to far too soon, resulting in September's dramatic correction in share prices. This time it might just be different if the moment is ripe for the gilt-edged market to make a relatively strong advance.

That is an assumption however that still depends both on the Chancellor producing an acceptable (and credible) estimate for the 1982/3 public sector borrowing requirement, and, just as importantly, on nothing happening to upset the applicability in the United States.

On the issue of where American interest rates are destined to go, one can obtain a myriad of views. At the moment, the consensus is slightly more optimistic. With a little help from the soothing words of Federal Reserve Chairman Mr Paul Volcker, the upward trend in rates that followed the previous week's bad money supply figures was quickly reversed. The feeling grew that the worst might just be over.

But it will be interesting to see how markets now respond to yet another disappointing set of American money supply figures

that came out late last Friday. The immediate reaction in late New York trading was to push the interest rate upwards again. Will there be a follow-through today, or will the market decide to go along with the Federal view that all the figures at the moment simply add up to a short term bump?

What, moreover, will markets learn this week of tomorrow's meeting of the Fed's open market committee? When the committee reviews the 1982 targets there is no expectation that it will recommend any relaxation of the relatively tight M1 target. But there was some speculation last week that it might actually reserve some room for manoeuvre by basing the starting point for 1982, not on the actual outcome last year — an undershoot — but on the point the money supply would have reached in the final quarter had it come out in the middle of last year's target range.

A little soothing, a little sleight of hand maybe; it all gives some ground for hope. But at the end of it all, the markets know that the money figures need to be coming right fairly soon if cautious optimism is not to be punctured.

For London stockmarkets, then, unknown factor number one is what happens in America. But there is a second unknown too, and that is how far British markets can move independently of the United States.

If American rates do come down, then British rates certainly will well, possibly quite sharply as the spring progresses. That would be excellent news for both gilts and equities — leaving the midsummer for talk as to whether we were in a new long-term upturn, or merely destined to see a repeat of 1972 with unemployment and share prices approaching their peak simultaneously.

### Perks

#### Salutory lesson

The public image of the British boardroom has not been at its best recently with well-publicised rows over golden handshakes and what can loosely be called executive benefits.

As far as the latter go, it is not always easy for the outsider to be able to distinguish between the cosy boardroom set-up in which directors can use their positions to make their lives as comfortably and as profitably as possible, and the multi-faceted remuneration package that may be genuinely essential to recruit or retain key executives.

Moreover, the issue tends to be further blurred by the fact that whatever may appear to be rather extravagant and even superfluous benefits, are very often no more than tax-efficient ways of making up total remuneration. In these cases public scorn is often misdirected at companies and would be far better aimed in the direction of governments that frame the tax laws.

But that does not mean that the boardroom is automatically off the hook. Directors serve a number of interests as well as their own, not least those of their employees and shareholders. Executive benefits, perks, remuneration packages, will need to be formulated with the interests of the company as a whole, as well as of the recipient executive in mind, particularly when it comes to large capital raises like house sales.

One cannot, and would not want to legislate on how boardrooms should behave in these matters. But managements need to be reminded of their broader responsibilities from time to time. Where shareholders have to vote on such matters they may not always make the wisest of decisions, but the fact that they occasionally say no, must be thoroughly salutary.

## Shadow of UDI over labour movement

Salisbury

The white mine owner was quite frank about his reasons for crossing the racial divide in Zimbabwe, ruling Zanu (PF) Party. "I used to have a lot of labour problems but now when there is any trouble I just call in the local commissioner and he sorts it out for me."

So cynical an attitude to industrial relations is not necessarily typical in Zimbabwe, or even as effective as the mine boss would imply. Nevertheless it does point to political overtones in the aspirations of the growing body of trade unions here.

In the past four months there have been three serious labour stoppages, involving teachers, nurses and railway workers. All three have been seen as challenges to the authorities stemming from dissatisfaction with wage increases and have led to government intervention and the arrest of strikers under emergency legislation designed to curb political activity.

But quite apart from frustration over wages, the strikes reflect a widespread confusion in the labour movement. For almost two years after independence, trade unions are still bound by legislation drafted during UDI while at the same time speaking with the fragmented voice that characterizes their history.

Prior to independence the labour movement reflected nothing so vividly as the political divisions and tuncions within the country. Union umbrella organizations centres would be nominally united only to splinter at times of political upheaval, as in 1976 when the National African Trade Union Council broke up into factions supporting three rival nationalist politicians, Mr Joshua Nkomo, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole.

The fact that organized labour had long been a vehicle for covert political activity — leaders such as Mr Nkomo, the Rev Sithole, Mr

### INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK: UNIONS IN ZIMBABWE

By Steven Taylor

James Chikerema and Mr Clement Muchachisi served political apprenticeships with trade unions — could not have been lost on the government of Mr Robert Mugabe as it took office.

In February last year the country's first central union body, the Zimbabwe Council of Trade Unions (ZCTU), was established, representing 52 affiliated unions and 200,000 members of all races. Mr Albert Mugabe, a younger brother of the Prime Minister, was elected the first secretary-general.

Meanwhile, in the months following independence, a host of new unions had sprung up in fields in which there were already established unions. The new unions, which in some cases accused their rivals of racism and claimed improbable membership statistics, are in many cases led by comparatively inexperienced men with links to the ruling Zanu (PF) party and have been seen in some quarters as an attempt by the party to influence the course of union affairs.

Following recommendations by the Riddell Commission of Inquiry into a Commonwealth seminar, the ZCTU adopted a course of bringing about mergers of unions working in related fields — the object being to establish one union for

agricultural workers, one for miners, and so on — which it was proposed would streamline the number of ZCTU affiliated unions to 17.

The call for mergers was not unreservedly welcomed by the established unions, which envisaged being absorbed by bodies which might have a partisan interest, although the profusion of unions was clearly causing confusion.

Last September Mr Kumbirai Kangai, the Minister of Labour, warned that unions had a year to agree terms for a merger. At the end of that time those opposed to unification would be de-registered.

Delicate talks were going on in a number of sector unions when the confusion was compounded by the death of Mr Albert Mugabe, whose body was found in a swimming pool on December 2.

He had been leading the merger negotiations and had been closely involved in discussions on another important issue, pending labour legislation. Although elected to his position by a narrow majority at the inaugural congress, Mr Mugabe had become the distinctive voice of the movement and with no clear successor in sight there was concern that neither issue would receive due attention until a new leader was established in the post.

More than a month after Mr Mugabe's death the ZCTU is still without a secretary, whose body was found in a swimming pool on December 2. The delay in succession. Possible contenders include Mr Alfred Makwarimba, the ZCTU member who has been acting as spokesman, and Mr Webster Gwekwerere, the leader of the new mining union.

Mr Anderson Mhunu, a union man of the old school who ran Mr Mugabe to within a nose for the job last year, is thought unlikely to get the job because he is Bulawayo-based and is associated with the opposition Patriotic Front party.



Workers in Zimbabwe: unions are heading for an uncertain future

Meanwhile, despite a statement by Mr Makwarimba that there has been "tremendous progress" with the mergers, negotiations have become bogged down in a number of areas. The long-established Mineworkers of Zimbabwe, which is multiracial and is accepted as being among the most effective labour bodies in the country, is firmly resisting overtures to unite with the recently-formed Zimbabwe Mineworkers' Union.

Negotiations between unions representing farmers and postal workers also appear to have stalled although two graphics bodies have agreed to merge.

There has been even less progress on putting legislation before parliament to replace the discriminatory Industrial Conciliation Act. The first draft of the proposed law combined racist phraseology with the exhaustive disputes procedure common in the United States. It was passed to the unions for comment midway through last year and they rejected it outright.

The Government has said that it is committed to the principle of collective bargaining and the second draft, being prepared at present, should outline procedures for strike action.

Until the act is amended the provision remains for the Government to arrest workers who defy orders to return to work. Teachers and nurses were briefly detained in October under emergency powers which have been in force since UDI — and were

further extended this month — although the present authorities stated that they would not be used to prevent industrial action.

Earlier this month, railway workers were arrested and brought to court under other legislation which forbids industrial action by workers in strategic sectors.

Mr Brian Fox, an official of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs in Britain, who was here for some months to advise the ZCTU while studying labour affairs, said: "It is a very interesting and important tie, and although it is a confused scene in many respects there is a lot more order than there has ever been before. But there remains a crying need for new labour legislation."

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'000's					%		Actual Taxed
1,224	ABT HD 10% CULS	123	+2	10.0	8.1	—	—
4,852	Airsprung Group	70	+1	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4
1,125	Armitage & Rhodes	45	-1	4.3	9.6	3.8	8.5
12,526	Bardon Hill	206	+3	9.7	4.7	10.0	12.1
6,268	Deborah Services	81	-1	6.0	7.4	4.0	7.6
4,143	Frank Horsell	130	+1	6.4	4.9	11.7	24.1
11,268	Frederick Parker	78	+3	1.7	2.2	33.9	—
923	George Blair	50	+1	—	—	—	—
3,858	IPC	95	+1	7.3	7.7	6.8	10.3
2,520	Lis Conv Pref	105	-	15.7	15.0	—	—
2,494	Jackson Group	95	-1	7.0	7.4	3.0	6.7
15,596	James Burrough	113	-1	8.7	7.7	8.2	10.4
2,570	Robert Jenkins	252	-1	31.3	12.4	3.5	8.9
1,680	Scruttons "A"	56	+1	5.3	9.5	8.6	8.0
4,052	Torday & Carlisle	166	-1	10.7	6.4	5.3	9.9
2,885	Twinklond Ord	134	+4	—	—	—	—
2,075	Twinklond 15% ULS	76	+1	15.0	19.7	—	—
4,120	Uniflock Holdings	27	-2	3.0	11.1	4.8	8.2
9,506	Walter Alexander	75	-	6.4	8.5	4.9	8.7
5,083	W. S. Estates	218	+2	13.1	8.0	4.1	8.4

\* Prices now available on Prestel, page 48146



**COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL**

\* Ex dividend. † Ex all. ‡ Forecast dividends. § Cash price. ¶ Interim payment passed. † Price at suspension. § Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. ‡ Bid for company. † Pro-merger figures. § Forecast earnings. ¶ Ex capital distribution. † Ex rights. § Ex scrip or share split. † Tax free. ‡ Price adjusted for late dealings. No significant data.







## Skiing

# Compound that saved rain-soaked pistes

loved," boot packing "the snow which then was raked smooth. Officials said some were "slipping" the surface to a sturdy bluish sheen.

Snow Cementing, a course, is nothing new to world competitors-and, perhaps, surprisingly, most of them seem to like it.

"It's firm and grippy and it holds up well," Miss Cooper, who is not one to cast about for excuses, said.

What did not seem fair for everybody today was the officials' view of how big and visible advertising marks can be on racers' suits.

equipment. On Thursday three Eastern European skiers were disqualified from the women's combined for wearing illegal advertising on their gloves. Officials today stood at the starting hut and picked out 18 racers with illegal markings. Instead of disqualifying them—and they included the three medalists—they merely observed the offending matter with sticky plaster and sent the skiers on their way.

There their ski manufacturers will run tests on their skis. This decision arises from charges made by the Canadians and Swiss last week that the manufacturer had supplied them with skis inferior to those given Weirather and another Austrian, Peter Wirmsberger, who skied successfully in

the last World Cup race, at Wengen.

**RESULTS:** 1. E. Moss (Switzerland); 2. P. Plien (France); 3. C. Cooper (U.S.); 4. 22.18; 5. D. Tialda (Poland); 1:22.48; 6. A. Krametschik (Austria); 1:23.37; 7. D. Zintl (Austria); 1:24.18; 8. M. Tialda (Poland); 1:24.21; 9. A. Zavadoff (Yugoslavia); 1:24.25; 10. O. Charvatova (Czechoslovakia); 1:24.32.

**COMBINED:** 1. Moss 8.99m; 2. Plien 27.95; 3. Cooper 20.98; 4. Charvatova 35.60; 5. Zavadoff 36.00; 6. Tialda 36.00; 7. Krametschik 36.00; 8. Zintl 37.77; 9. D. Zintl 35.00; 10. M. Tialda 65.86; 11. A. Levkoski (Yugoslavia); 66.33.

## McEnroe takes Connors's service apart

300,000 dollars Professional Indoor tennis championship. McEnroe, the world, top-ranked player, maintained relentless pressure on Connors in winning the \$60,000 first prize.

This was the 17th meeting between the two tennis giants and McEnroe's eighth triumph. He served 13 aces and played most of the match from deep court, moving Connors around and continually forcing him to stretch to reach aberrant placement

McEnroe wasted little time demonstrating his superiority as he broke Connors's service in the second game of the opening set. In the second set, McEnroe broke Connors in the fifth and seventh games, lost his service in the eighth, but came right back to take Connors's service. McEnroe kept Connors on the defensive as he broke him in the second, fourth and seventh games of the third set.

### MISS LOUIS WINS

Joanne Louis of Devon won the 16-and-under indoor invitation tournament, sponsored by Saab at the Nordgate Arena, Chester. After beating Slovan Nicholson 7-6, 6-4, in the semi-final, Miss Louis defeated Sarah Sullivan, of Essex, 6-4, 7-5, in yesterday afternoon's final. Lewine Mair writes. Richard Whkello won his

**continues on  
ing path**

vincingly and most impressively defeated the young East German, Sigurd Hanke, over the 100 metres distance. In spite of emerging just behind Hanke after the dive (he really must improve his starts and turns), he was already a metre in the lead at 50 metres (29.5sec) and thereafter showed the soles of his feet to the field.

Stephen Poulter (Williams Wasps) had a just reward for a weekend of hard work and ver-

[illegible]

WOMEN : 100 m free-style : 1. Vertappen 56:10. 2. Croft. 36:40 m backstroke : 1. L. Gorkhakov USSR. 1:04:48. 100 m breaststroke : 1. Begomirsky. 1:13:15. R. G. Slanin. 1:15:19. 200 m breaststroke : 1. Alex IEG. 2:16:14. 6. Fiksen. 2:16:14. 400 m free-style : 1. Croft. 1:15:34.

Saturday  
MEN : 100 meters free-style : 1. B. Hall (US). 51.70 sec. 100 m butterfly : 1. C. Rives (US). 51.48. 200 m breaststroke : 1. B. Monke (EG). 1:00:51.

Powder	Good	Snow	1
Powder	Good	Fine	-1

Crust	Fair	Rain	2
Heavy	Good	Snow	2
Varied	Good	Fog	3
Varied	Fair	Fine	5

The Ski Club of Great Britain,  
 Malpas.

100























# Schmidt derides reports of health trouble

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Jan 31

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, laughed and chatted for an hour last night while the country was buzzing with reports that he had collapsed, and warnings that he might resign.

"They're talking nonsense", he retorted when asked about press reports that he had been taken ill at the Lower Saxony Social Democrat Party Congress in Hanover on Saturday.

The Chancellor, who had a pace-maker inserted in October after recurrent heart trouble, suddenly walked out of the congress shortly after making a 90-minute speech, his face bright red and covered with beads of sweat.

After a 15-minute rest and a drink of water he returned, apparently recovered. The Government press office said later that he had been suffering from cramp—they would not say where—which had gone away of its own accord.

Given the Chancellor's, and therefore his spokesman's, tendency to conceal or play down any signs of ill health, journalists now take such remarks with a pinch of salt.

But the Chancellor, who has appeared fitter than at any time since his operation, proceeded to play down the incident himself at the annual press ball in his native city.

He did not dance, but talked animatedly for several hours to foreign and German guests. Meanwhile, the Chancellor and his staff were attempting

to soften his threat, reported by a close colleague on Friday, that he would resign if the Social Democrat-Free Democrat coalition parties failed to agree to a plan to finance an urgently needed unemployment scheme. Herr Schmidt is insisting on a solution in time for the cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

The Chancellor made it clear at the local party congress in Hanover that he was not assuming to step down before the current legislature ends in 1984, but that disagreements and dissent could make his job impossible.

"I don't want to leave the ship", he said, "but one cannot go on indefinitely steering a ship with 27 or 30 would-be helmsmen."

His threat—or warning, as his staff prefer to call it—was clearly not as serious and irrevocable as his insistence that he will go if the SPD withdraws its support from NATO's deployment-and-negotiate missile decision, which is a fundamental pillar of his security policy.

The situation, with leaders of the two parties still completely at odds about where the money for the scheme is to come, is being treated extremely seriously here. Herr Herbert Wehner, the SPD Bundestag floor leader, predicted that if a solution were not found, the coalition would break up in the next few weeks.

Frankfurt: Schmidt's health problems were going on this week-end.

## Dying girl's screams were heard for 25 minutes

A girl aged 17 was found dead near a large block of London flats after residents heard screams for help for about twenty-five minutes.

Mr Robert Wareham, who lives in the flats in De Beauvoir Road, Islington, north London, said: "After 15 to 20 minutes the screaming got louder and help was called for a couple of times. Then it just stopped. It sounded like a girl friend and boy friend arguing, shouting, and running up and down. Almost every night there is noise. Either children playing out late or couples fighting."

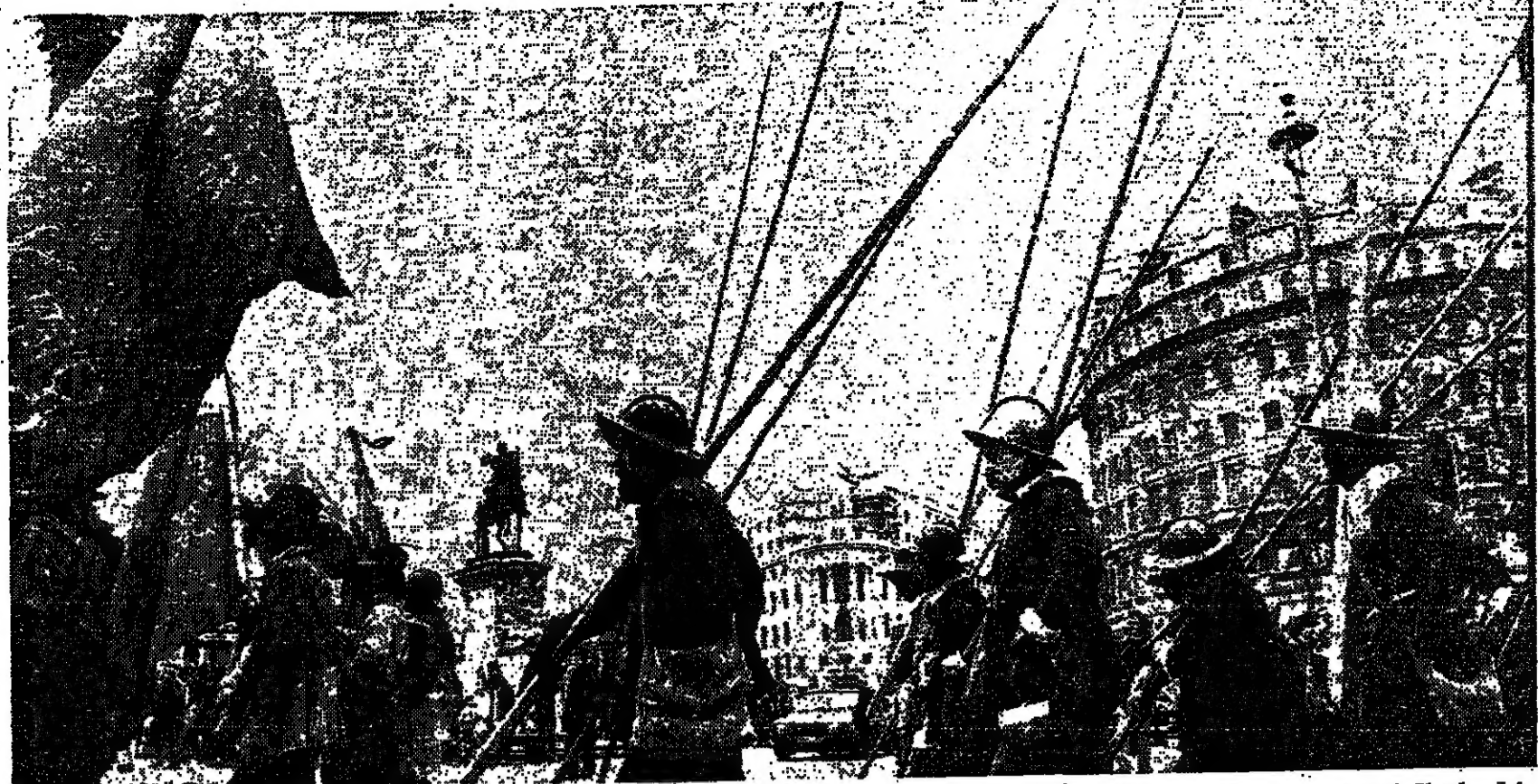
The girl was named as Sharon Locke, who lived in the Islington area. Detective Superintendent Alan Lacey said: "She put up one hell of a

fight, possibly for a considerable time." Reports that her screams were heard for 25 minutes late on Friday night "could well be right," he said, although her body was not discovered until the next morning.

Asked if he found it amazing that people could have heard screams and not called the police, Mr Lacey said: "As a policeman, yes. But as a person, this is a fact of life that we have to live with all the time... people will not call us often enough."

Last night a youth aged 16 was charged with murdering Sharon Locke. Scotland Yard said. He will appear at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court today.

## King's men for a day



PRIVATES' PROGRESS: Members of the English Civil War Society, dressed in seventeenth-century uniform, pass by the statue of Charles I in Trafalgar Square yesterday, after a parade to commemorate his execution. A wreath was laid at the base of the statue before the parade.

## Clashes in Gdansk as martial law eases

Continued from page one

politics—is clearly at the root of many of the Military Council's recent actions. It has announced the establishment of a price commission to investigate unwarranted price rises, and a long list of products that will now be subject only to regulated price increases.

This latter measure effectively negates one of the key elements of price reform, the freedom of enterprises to fix prices themselves according to how much it costs to manufacture their products. However, the Government seems reconciled to throwing this theoretical ballast overboard to maintain a degree of public calm.

There is no sign of concessions on the key issues but church authorities say up to 4,000 internees may be released in two months' time if there is no serious unrest.

Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, has now been told he is being held in house arrest under the internment regulations. This clears one obstacle for his release to the public.

There were 80 to a hundred women in the internment wing and most have now been transferred to a new centre believed to be near the Soviet border.

As more and more internees

are released, accurate accounts of internment conditions are emerging. One graphic account was made available to Western correspondents at the weekend by a woman released, because of ill health, from a special female centre.

Conditions at first were almost unbearably cold because the women were accommodated in a part of a normal criminal prison that had been unused since March. Clothes had to be washed in the lavatory and frozen in minutes. After a few days, internment became better organized, including daily gymnastics and political education lessons.

For the first fortnight breakfast was a slice of bread, margarine and thin coffee, lunch was soup and dinner was bread and margarine again.

After two weeks prisoners were allowed food parcels from relatives—the normal conditions of criminal imprisonment—and an hour's visit from relatives once a month.

There were 80 to a hundred women in the internment wing and most have now been transferred to a new centre believed to be near the Soviet border.

Crisis in culture, page 4

## Biggest oil terminal threatened

From Jonathan Willis, Lerwick, Shetland

Britain's biggest oil terminal could be shut down later this month if a planned strike goes ahead at Sullom Voe in Shetland. Three hundred men who operate jetties, oil storage tanks and processing equipment have given notice to BP, the operator of the terminal, that they will go on official strike next Friday in support of a pay claim.

The company has offered an increase of 7 per cent; the men are seeking 15 per cent.

Without the jetty workers the terminal would have to stop loading tankers, and the 16 tanks at Sullom Voe would soon fill. Production at seven offshore oil fields would then have to stop.

At present Sullom Voe is shipping out just under one million tons of crude oil a week, most of it to United Kingdom and European ports. The terminal is due to make its first shipment of liquefied petroleum gas early next April.

This is the first serious industrial dispute among operators staff at the terminal since it opened in November, 1978, although there have been several stoppages by construction workers.

## Tory Budget dissenters to coordinate tactics

Continued from page one

would have been defeated in committee, where the Government has only a majority of two. The Opposition is united and at least three Tory MPs are not prepared to support the clause.

Treasury and environment ministers are expected to meet early this week to discuss how the Bill can be amended. The Treasury has opposed the dropping of the power.

But Mr Robin Squire, one of the Conservative MPs on the committee who oppose the plan, has tabled a new clause to end the so-called "mid-year hold-back". He said last night that it was considered unfair because the effect of a future intervention by the Treasury would not be calculated at the time the council was fixing its rate.

When the committee stage of the Bill resumes tomorrow, the Opposition is to demand a statement from Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, to clarify the position on the offending clause.

Conservative MPs, unhappy at the apparent outcome of last Thursday's Cabinet meet-

ing, are planning informal meetings at Westminster this week to coordinate their tactics for the weeks leading up to the Budget on March 9.

Their discussions will take place against the background of growing concern that the ministers they regarded as their champions in the Cabinet might appear to have agreed not to resist the demands of the Treasury for a cautious Budget.

The "wets" intend, none the less, to keep up their pressure on Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. This week's informal contacts will involve far more than the 24 MPs who demonstrated their dissatisfaction by withholding their support from the Government in a vote on economic policy before Christmas.

Tory dissenters are increasingly talking of up to six of their number considering leaving the party after the Budget, if their demands are totally ignored.

But yesterday a new possibility was being canvassed. It was said that at least another half a dozen MPs, who could not bring themselves to join another party, might consider renouncing the Conservative whip.

## Fairbairn says rape decision was not his

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, former Scottish General for Scotland, who resigned recently over the Glasgow rape case, said yesterday that the decision to prosecute three youths was not his. He said the decision had been taken by prosecution lawyers with the "utmost propriety" and he had "taken the rap".

He would not say if he would have taken the same decision had he known of the case at the time. "I might have and I might not have. I certainly would not say that the decision that was taken was wrong."

Mr Fairbairn, MP for Kirkcaldy and West Fife, made his comments in an interview for *Agenda*, BBC Scotland's political programme.

The decision not to prosecute three youths was taken after a psychiatrist concluded that the women would suffer irreparable mental harm if she had to give evidence. She has since said she hopes to bring a private prosecution against the youths.

Mr Fairbairn said: "I would not have liked to have stood at a public trial, but I defended a situation in which somebody had taken their own life as a result of a decision that had been taken by my office."

Mr Fairbairn, who at times in the interview seemed close to tears, denied that Mrs Thatcher asked him to quit and said he hoped his resignation would restore confidence in Scottish law. He described the Prime Minister as "very loving, very kind, and very compassionate."

He added: "She is one of the most compassionate people I have ever known. She has a real human concern for everybody." For the future, he said that he would write, paint, and serve his constituents. But, asked if he accepted that it was unlikely he would hold office again, he said: "I would not accept that it is unlikely I will receive office again. I may or I may not—just have to wait and see."

Asked if he felt bitter, and if he thought that Lord MacKay, of Clashfern, the Lord Advocate, the senior Scottish law officer, should also resign, Mr Fairbairn said in reply: "Bitterness is not in my nature. And it is for people to make their own decisions as to where their conscience lies."

Mr Fairbairn also spoke of his support from well-wishers, including a group of 100 members of the Great Train Robbers.

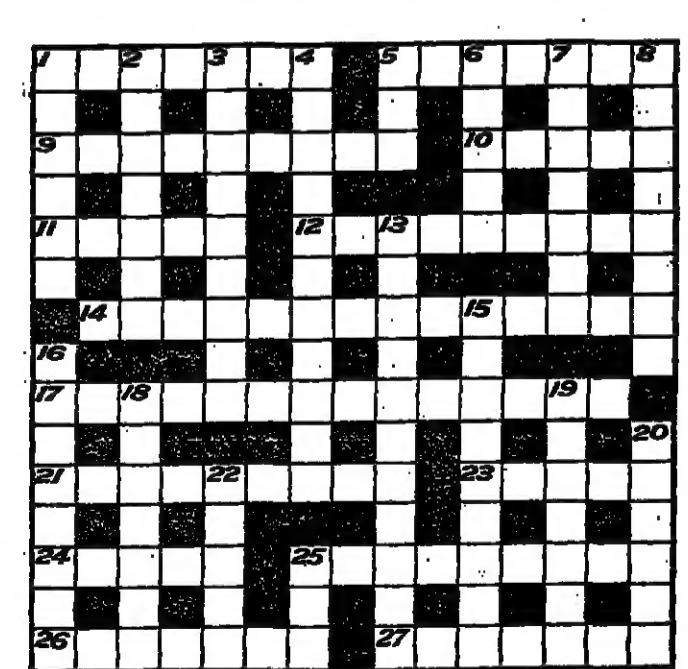
## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

**Exhibitions**  
The history of the traction engine: paintings by David Weston, Museum of Transport, Albert Drive, Glasgow, 10 to 5.  
Joseph Crawhall, drawings and watercolours, and French watercolours and drawings: both at Glasgow Museum and Art Gallery, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, 10 to 5.  
Photographer as Printmaker.

Castle Museum, Nottingham, 10 to 4.45.  
Lincolnshire at Work, an exhibition of Victorian and Edwardian photographs, Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln, 10 to 5.30.  
Original Victorian Valentines, 1840-1880, Baylis Gallery, 8 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly, 10 to 5.  
Japanese festivals, an exhibition for children about Japanese life and traditions, Haggis Castle Museum, 100 St Andrew's Drive, Glasgow, 10 to 5.15.

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 15,744



**ACROSS**  
1 A quicker drink than it sounds (4,3)  
5 Service on the bench (7)  
6 Most books have one - Debreit has many (5,4)  
10 Board after time as an aid to travellers (5)  
11 Blues a number of these in a row (5)  
12 One involved in a hold-up (9)  
14 They hope to meet with varying degrees of success (14)  
17 Where footnote to account is drawing it mild (14)  
21 Some talk of him in song (9)  
23 This drink is too much (5)  
24 Should be the end of a dry spell (5)  
25 Little boy in the cold, where mine is (9)  
26 He has lots in this condition (7)  
27 Stories out of part of Bible relate to gifts (7)

**DOWN**  
1 Seating put on part of the golf course (6)  
2 Crazy Goon act takes shape (7)  
3 Super-stars in the animal kingdom? (5,4)  
4 Not taking the long view, as it were (4,7)  
5 A small part in "Bitter Sweet" (3)  
6 Proportion of allowance that's unfinished (5)  
7 Tabitha as home-maker (7)  
8 It's simply topping with egg pork (8)  
13 Reproduction shown by winter sports casualty (7,4)  
16 They should need no exhortation to take care (8)  
18 Loaded with sugar or flour, this vessel (7)  
19 It's material to make a girl enthusiastic (7)  
20 Spirits affording light relief (5)  
22 Bill Ray emulated Roscius (5)  
25 About a mile to the river (3)

**The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 15,743 will appear next Saturday**

**The Great Japan Exhibition**, Art of the East, part II, Royal Academy, 10 to 6.  
**Talks; lectures**  
Hallstatt and La Tène: type sites for the Iron Age, by David Williams, British Museum, 11.30.  
James MacColl, 1840-1900, Warner, gallery 17, Tate Gallery, W.C.1, 6.15.  
Shakespeare on Film, by Martin Armstrong, London School of English and Tropical Medicine, 11.30.  
Theatricality, by Dr D. Robinson, Heriote, University Museum and Art Gallery, Fairfield West, Kingston-upon-Thames, 1.10.

**Sport in Kingston**—local sports and games in the twentieth century to the present, by Dr D. Robinson, Heriote, University Museum and Art Gallery, Fairfield West, Kingston-upon-Thames, 1.10.

**Music**  
Early music network, Academy of Ancient Music, chamber recital, Cartwright Hall, Lister Park, Bradford, 7.30.  
Recital by Rose Baynam, (cello), Richard Maple, (piano), at St Anne and St Agnes, Gresham Street, EC2, 1.10.  
Concert by the West Suffolk Youth Orchestra, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, 7.30.

**Auctions**  
Christie's, South Kensington: old and modern silver, 2; English and Continental prints, 2; tribal art, Phillips, Bleanes, 11.30.  
Street: furniture, carpets, objects, including ethnographical and scientific instruments, 11; watercolours, 11.30.  
Bond Street: glass, 11 and 2.30.

**Viewing**  
Banham, Montpellier Street: European oil paintings, 9.5.  
Christie's, King Street: Eastern textiles and carpets, 9.7; scientific instruments, clocks and watches, continental pictures, 19th and 20th century, 9.7.  
Phillips, Bleanes, Street: furniture, carpets, works of art, clocks and watches; English and Continental ceramics and glass; scientific instruments, 11.30.  
Bond Street: English porcelain, Old Master prints, modern British pictures; works of art, 11.30.  
4.30. Sotheby's, Belgrave: furniture, 9.30-4.30.

**Sporting fixtures**  
Football: Two fourth round FA Cup matches, one Scottish Cup game.  
Racing: Meetings at Leicester (1.30) and Farnham (1.45).

**Race on TV**  
BBC 2: 5.5 World Skiing Championships: The Ladies Combined Slalom from Haus.

**Bond winners**  
Winning numbers in the weekly draw for £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000 Premium Bond prizes, announced on Saturday, are:  
£100,000, No 3VW 745393, the winner lives in Camden, north London; £50,000, No 8PW 880723 (oversubscribed); £25,000, No 23RL 942018 (Belfast).

**Parliament today**  
Commons (2.30): Debate on the new nuclear power programme.  
Lords (2.30): Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, committee, third day.

### Nature notes

The skylarks now singing over the fields are resident birds, but a complicated pattern of skylark migration is also beginning. Some birds that came here from Northern Europe in the autumn are starting to drift back across the North Sea, while others are returning to England across the Channel from a winter spent in the south of France. In some parts of the east coast shorebirds gather to feed among the reeds and yellow flag, and there are small shoots on the ground, and here and there on the dunes. By damp ditches, the first delicate leaves of cow parsley are spreading, and the young goose-grass is sticky to the touch. Hazel is now generally in flower, and the red flowers of the hawthorn are beginning to show. In Scotland a few large, gnarled trees are found, perhaps similar to the hazel's successors. D.J.M.

### The pound

	Bank	Bank
Austria Sch	32.00	30.00
Belgium Fr	35.00	33.00
Canada \$	2.33	2.24
Denmark Kr	14.80	14.10
Finland Mk	8.73	8.28
France F	11.50	10.90
Germany DM	4.53	4.25
Greece Dr	124.00	115.00
Hongkong \$	11.30	10.70
India Rupee	11.54	10.84
Italy Lit	2425.00	2325.00
Japan Yen	455.00	430.00
Netherlands Gld	4.57	4.71
Norway Kr	11.54	10.84
Portugal Esc	132.50	124.50
South Africa R	2.04	1.89
Spain Ptas	194.00	185.00
Switzerland Fr	3.83	3.41
USA \$	1.94	1.87
Yugoslavia Dnr	105.00	98.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International.

London: The FT index closed up 6.9 at 579.8 on Friday.

### Anniversaries

Births: Edward Coke, jurist, 1570; Napoleon Bonaparte, 1769; Auguste Rodin, 1840; Hugo von Hofmannsthal, 1874; George Bernard Shaw, 1896; Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, 1797; George Cruikshank, 1799.

### Church music

Southwark Cathedral: Today 1.10. Stephen Darlington (organ) 1.10 pm.  
St John's, Smith Square: Today 1.10. Concert by the London Sinfonietta, 7.30 pm. February. Lindsey String Quartet, 7.30 pm.  
Chichester Cathedral: February 2. Recital by the pupils of Prebendal School, 1.10 pm.  
St Paul's Cathedral: February 5. Michael Smith (organ) 12.30 pm.  
Durham Cathedral: February 6. University Choral Concert, 7.30 pm.

### New postal charges

Higher postage charges take effect today, when the following rates will apply:  
First class: Up to 60g, 15p; up to 100g, 22p; up to 150g, 28p; up to 200g, 35p; up to 250g, 42p; up to 300g, 49p; up to 350g, 56p; up to 400g, 64p; up to 450g, 72p; up to 500g, 80p; up to 550g, 88p; up to 600g, 96p; up to 750g, 1.18; up to 1kg, 1.57.  
Second class: Up to 60g, 13p; up to 100g, 16p; up to 150g, 20p; up to 200g, 26p; up to 250g, 32p; up to 300g, 38p; up to 350g, 44p; up to 400g, 50p; up to 450g, 56p; up to 500g, 62p; up to 550g, 68p; up to 600g, 74p; up to 750g, 94; up to 1kg, 1.20.  
The average increase on inland post (excluding newspapers) is 34 per cent. New national rates are: Up to 1kg, £1.20; 2kg, £1.57; 3kg, £1.90; 4kg, £2.10; 5kg, £2.25; 6kg, £2.40; 7kg, £2.55; 8kg, £2.70; 9kg, £2.80; 10kg, £2.90. Rates within the local area are 20p cheaper at each weight.

Air parcel charges are not being increased, but other overseas parcels will go up by an average of 111 per cent.

### Travel today

Pre-recorded travel information on Traveline—rail: 01-246 8030; road: 01-246 8031; sea: 01-246 8032; air: 01-246 8033.

### Rail

Most British Rail services are expected to be back to normal today after Sunday's strike. Commuter services face minimal disruption but some rush hour cancellations may occur.

### Roads

The North: A629: Roadworks on Keighley Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire. A533: Two-way traffic on one carriageway at Runcorn, Cheshire.  
Scotland: M8: Only one lane open each way from junction 29, St James interchange to junction 30, Craigton interchange; A76: Temporary signals 4 miles north of Dumfries; A698: Temporary traffic signals at Kello, Roxburghshire.

### Sea

Because of Sealink dispute, no Newhaven/Dieppe ferries operating today. For special coaches to ports during rail disruption, call 01-828 4142 or 01-834 2345, or Sealink offices at ports.

### The papers

The issue at stake in the rail dispute was the British Rail Board could not afford to lose if the country was to have a modernized railway network in the future. The Overseas companies would end the archaic rigidity that belonged to the steam age and represent the first step by the drivers towards working methods more suited to the twentieth century.

The Sunday Times said union leaders were thoroughly misguided if they intended to carry through a campaign against Mr Norman Tebbit's Employment Bill to the point of defying the law itself. There was nothing in the proposals with which a well conducted union could not live. For the public the only question was whether the proposals went far enough.

### Weather

A mild S-W airstream will cover all parts.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central S, E, Central N, NE. England, Midlands, East Angles: Mostly dry and rather chilly, some sun, mainly in the S. W. light or moderate; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).  
Central Ireland, SW Ireland, S Wales: Mostly cloudy, but some sunny intervals inland, coastal fog and drizzle in places; W. light or moderate; max temp 10 to 11C (50 to 52F).  
W Wales, NW England, Lake District, NW Scotland, Shetland: Mostly cloudy, but some sunny intervals inland, coastal fog and drizzle in places; W. light or moderate; max temp 10 to 11C (50 to 52F).  
Barnes, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow: Mostly dry and rather chilly, some sun, mainly in the S. W. light or moderate; max temp 12 to 14C (54 to 57F).  
SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Shetland, Orkney, Hebrides: Wind SW, mainly 10 to 12 mph, increasing, mainly moderate. Sea, smooth becoming mainly slight. St George's: Wind SE, mainly 10 to 12 mph, increasing, mainly moderate. Sea, smooth becoming mainly slight. St George's: Wind SE, mainly 10 to 12 mph, increasing, mainly moderate. Sea, smooth becoming mainly slight.

First Quarter, 2.26 pm

### Lighting up time

London 5.22 pm to 7.8 am  
Bristol 5.22 pm to 7.38 am  
Edinburgh 5.15 pm to 7.36 am  
Manchester 5.21 pm to 7.23 am  
Passenger 5.46 pm to 7.25 am

### Yesterdays

Temperatures at midday yesterday: °C, °F.  
London 11.0 52.0  
Birmingham 11.5 52.7  
Manchester 11.5 52.7  
Glasgow 11.5 52.7  
Edinburgh 11.5 52.7  
Cardiff 11.5 52.7  
Belfast 11.5 52.7  
Newcastle 11.5 52.7  
Sheffield 11.5 52.7  
Liverpool 11.5 52.7  
Bristol 11.5 52.7  
Exeter 11.5 52.7  
Plymouth 11.5 52.7  
Reading 11.5 52.7  
Oxford 11.5 52.7  
Nottingham 11.5 52.7  
Leeds 11.5 52.7  
Sheff 11.5 52.7  
Birmingham 11.5 52.7  
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